Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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WOMEN'S SUMMIT

The CNMI closed out the celebration of CNMI Women's Month by staging the 6th Annual Women's Summit at the Fiesta Resort & spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. First lady Diann Torres and other women from all walks of life in the Commonwealth ended the summit last Friday. The summit, which revolved around the theme: "Lead-HER-Ship: Masters of Our Own Destiny," tackled concerns such as employment, education, health, environment, and public policy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Power charge goes up

Expect to see an increase in your power bill this April.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that international fuel prices have gone up, boosting its fuel adjustment charge, which is used to purchase fuel.

As a result, the current FAC rate of $0.19213 per kWh has increased to $0.20087 per kWh effective April 1, 2019.

» **Rise in fuel prices result in FAC increase**

Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately $4.36 more in their monthly billing.

In a statement yesterday, CUC said

See POWER on **Page 4**

NMBAC aims to finish PWS mid-May

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. aims to finish the CNMI prevailing wage survey this mid-May.

The result of the survey will be used as the basis of the U.S. Department of Labor in issuing temporary labor certification to local employers petitioning foreign workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker or renewing the applications of their existing employees under the program.

Both prevailing wage survey, or PWS, and temporary labor certification, or TLC, are requirements when hiring foreign workers in the CNMI, as outlined in the interim final rule that was recently released by the U.S. Labor Department.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to issue its own guidelines for the CW-1 visa program, according to USCIS public affairs officer Claire Nicholson

"As noted in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, each agency will have a respective rule regarding temporary employment in the CNMI. In the coming months, USCIS will announce further guidance for CW-1

See NMBAC on **Page 4**

Taiwan-Saipan charters to take off

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Palau Asia Pacific Air reportedly announced last week that it will launch scheduled charter flights between Taoyuan and Saipan starting June 5, 2019, to draw the Taiwan travel market in the region.

Aldan-Pierce

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Marianas Visitors Authority chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Concepcion disclosed last September that MVA has a strategic goal of having a diversified tourism economy, with 30 percent coming from Japan, 30 percent from Korea, 30

See TAIWAN on **Page 4**

Legislature mulls solving disputes via boxing

The House of Representatives will soon be acting on a bill to allow for the use of hand-to-hand combat to solve disputes regarding legislation that does not muster enough votes to be passed by the either the House or the Senate.

House Bill 21-69, or The Commonwealth Grudge Match Act of 2019 as its titled, and introduced by Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), master of ceremonies for Trench Tech mixed-martial arts events, aims to curb stalemates in passing legislation by mandating both the author of the bill and the representative or senator blocking its passage to settle their disputes via a single knockdown boxing match.

"In my career as a ring announcer and watching fights through the last several years, I've observed that grudge matches have been very effective in resolving disputes between rival fighters or fight camps, or in our case between the majority and the minority," Castro said when briefing reporters about the proposed legislation.

If passed, the bill states that, should a dispute arise in voting for a bill, the House speaker or the Senate presi-

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Star Marianas Air is celebrating its 10th year of servicing the CNMI and Guam.
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Beyonce is named entertainer of the year at the NAACP Image Awards ceremony.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Militante wins grand prize at Rotary Las Vegas Night raffle

ERWIN ENCINARES

Rotary Club of Saipan president Greg Borja prepares to draw raffle prizes last Saturday evening during their annual fundraiser, the Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Romanito Militante has a pleasant choice ahead of him. Either he opts for $10,000 cash or a brand new 2019 Mitsubishi Mirage, which he won as the grand prize winner during last Saturday's annual Rotary Club of Saipan Las Vegas Night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Militante was not present at the time to claim his prize.

Richard Asuncion won the second grand prize of $3,000 with winning ticket 04629.

A ticket signed "Marmy P." won the third grand prize of $2,000 with winning ticket number 10730.

Leonora Mabutas won the fourth grand prize of $1,000 with winning ticket 02620.

And a ticket signed "M. Sablan" won $500 with winning ticket 04183.

All grand prize raffle winners were absent during the grand prize raffle draw, but the Rotary Club would contact them for their prizes.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Greg Borja said last Saturday's Las Vegas Night was a surefire success, with an estimate of at least $50,000 in funds raised. That is based only on the number of tickets sold, not the money from the mini-casino.

"This year was a success. We had a lot of people…that came through here and we were packed," he said. "The space turned out great, the staff…were very helpful and… the conditions were great here."

The Las Vegas Night was held in both the Hibiscus Hall and the Azucena Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

"We had some new table games," Borja said, referring to the Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament as well as three-card poker.

Borja noted that the club would know how much they raised during the one-night event this Tuesday during their weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting.

"This was a lot of hard work," he said, thanking club members, the community, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for providing the club with dealers.

Proceeds from the event would go to the construction of a handicap-accessible playground at the Sugar King Park.

"We would also use it for several Rotary Club of Saipan programs such as youth enrichment, developing the community, and promoting peace," Borja said.

April 7 deadline to remove campaign materials

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is reminding all candidates in the March 23 special election that they have until April 7 to remove all campaign materials from public places.

Villagomez

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday that candidates and their supporters should start taking down their campaign materials.

She added, though, that the rule on taking down campaign posters applies only to those on public lands.

According to the Election Reform of 2000 law, each candidate who fails to remove campaign posters within the deadline may be fined $500.

Most campaign signs have been taken down already.

Villagomez said that May 12 is the deadline for the candidates' submission of campaign financial statement.

Marco Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party won the special election by a landslide in a four-way race for Precinct 3's vacant seat in the House of Representatives.

Former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party came second. Independents David Castro Sablan and Mariano Deleon Guerrero Fajardo landed third and fourth, respectively.

The special election was held following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last January.

Ex-DYS staff who filed sex harassment suit loses lawyer

A former social worker in the Child Protection Unit of the Division of Youth Services who sued her then-supervisor last month in federal court for alleged sex harassment has been left with no lawyer.

This developed after the former social worker's counsel, Joseph E. Horey, withdrew and asked the court to appoint a new counsel for her.

Saipan Tribune opted for the meantime to withhold the plaintiff's name. She appeared via telephone at the hearing since she currently lives in Vancouver, Washington.

According to the minutes of the hearing last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Horey's motion to withdraw.

Horey agreed with Manglona that the complaint has not been served yet on defendant Julian R. Camacho and co-defendants.

The minutes of the hearing did not indicate as to why Horey withdrew as counsel.

Manglona gave the plaintiff some time to find a new lawyer.

She informed the plaintiff that she was now proceeding pro se (without a lawyer) and if she has questions regarding the procedural aspects of the case, she may contact the clerk's office.

The plaintiff said she contacted a total of six lawyers, including Horey, to represent her.

Aside from plaintiff's then-supervisor with DYS, Camacho, she also named as co-defendants the CNMI government, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The plaintiff is suing Camacho for alleged violation of her civil rights, and the CNMI government and DCCA DYS for unlawful employment practices and violation of her civil rights. She demanded a jury trial.

She asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay her damages, court costs, and attorney's fees in unspecified amount.

According to the complaint, the plaintiff was employed by the Commonwealth as a social worker in the Child Protection Unit of DYS from December 2012 to May 2014.

Camacho, the plaintiff's male supervisor in the CPU, allegedly repeatedly subjected her to verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature, including making sexual advances.

The plaintiff said she complained to the heads of DCCA and DYS about the supervisor's conduct, but they failed to take adequate or effective action to protect her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ninth Circuit extends deadline for high school civics contest entries

SAN FRANCISCO—The 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition for high school students sponsored by federal courts of the western United States, has been extended. The new deadline for entries is 11:59pm Pacific Time on Monday, April 8, 2019.

For more information, visit http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest.

The contest is open to young people in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, the U.S. territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools or home- schooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The theme of the contest is "The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century—What is an 'Unreasonable Search and Seizure' in the Digital Age?"

Students are challenged to write an essay or produce a short video focusing on how the federal courts have applied 4th Amendment protections to electronic data devices, particularly the cellphones upon which almost everyone relies.

Students may enter both the essay and video competitions. A student is allowed to submit one essay and to submit one video either as an individual or part of a team of up to three members.

The contest is cosponsored by the Courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit. A total of $7,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive $2,000 for 1st place, $1,000 for 2nd place and $500 for 3rd place.

The 1st-place winners along with a parent or guardian also will be invited to the 2019 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Spokane, Washington. The conference is an annual gathering of federal judges and lawyers practicing in the federal courts.

In addition to the Ninth Circuit contest, many students also have a chance to win cash prizes in preliminary competitions sponsored by the individual judicial districts to select finalists.

For more information about the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8873 / civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov. ***(PR)***

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

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- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
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- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

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"Where Technology Meets Talent"

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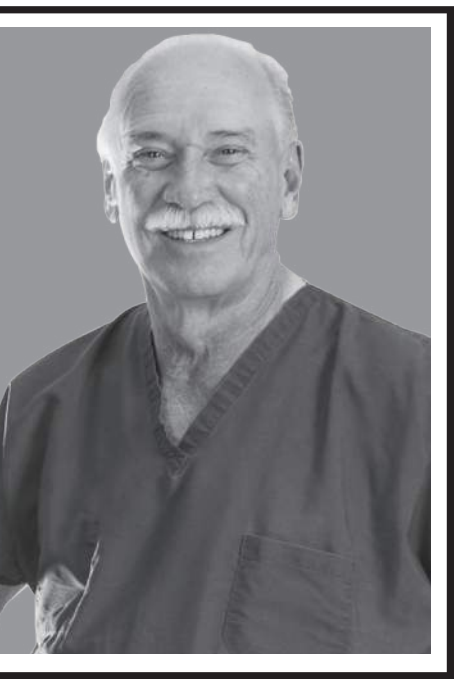

SPORTS LOTTERY
RESULTS
Over $120,000 in prizes won in the CNMI.

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PACIFIC GOLD
DRAW DATE 3/30/2019
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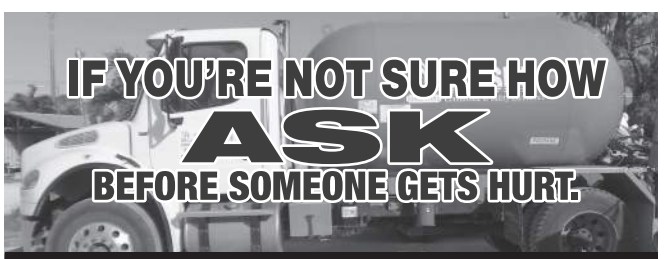

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Public Comment Period Extended for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy has extended the public comment period by an additional 15 days for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Public comments may now be submitted until **April 17, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

All comments must be postmarked or received online by April 17, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

Tips for Saving Money on Your taxes:
You should always try to claim every credit and deduction that you qualify for. To help ensure you don't miss anything, please visit at. . .

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Man charged with two counts of drug trafficking

A man has been charged with two counts of drug trafficking.

Joseph E. Ada, 35, was charged with two counts of trafficking crystal methamphetamine or "ice" after he allegedly sold $200 worth of methamphetamine on two occasions at his home in lower Dandan.

The Superior Court unsealed the case at a request of the Drug Enforcement Task Force.

According to court information, Ada was recorded selling illegal drugs to a cooperating witness on Aug. 30 and 31, 2018.

At that time, DETF was working with the Office of the Attorney General and had asked that the use of audio and video device and search warrant in connection with Ada be placed under seal to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the investigation.

Ada was arrested on March 7, 2019.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Ada last March 8.

At the bail hearing on March 8, lawyer Robert C. Lee appeared for the government.

Last March 11, assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues appeared for Ada. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

INDUCTION CEREMONY

The new officers of the Northern Mariana Islands Council of the Tau Gamma Phi Triskelion Grand Fraternity were sworn in last Saturday at the Saipan Ocean View Hotel. The new officers are Tyrone Garon Amurao (Grand Triskelion), Aired Murillo (Deputy GT), Ardam Centeno (Master Wielder of the Whip), Judy Araneta (Master Keeper of the Chest), and Gervy Ibanez Samson and Reden Zamora (Master Keepers of the Scroll).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BASIC TRAINING

Jeremy Manansala of Saipan Southern High School, right, and Jeremy Tanghal of Marianas High School, hold up the CNMI flag after finishing their Air Force Basic Military Training at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAIWAN

From Page 1

percent from China, and 10 percent from Taiwan, Russia, and everywhere else.

Concepcion said MVA is also working on direct flights from Taipei to Saipan.

According to news reports in Taipei, Palau Asia Pacific Air will use an Airbus A320 aircraft to fly Mondays, Saturdays, and Wednesdays every two weeks, providing six-day, six-day and five-day tour packages, respectively.

PAPA's service will reportedly end in October when the summer flight schedule ends.

A general manager of a Taiwanese travel agency that partners with PAPA was quoted as saying that it is expected that 10,000 Taiwanese tourists will visit Saipan this summer.

PAPA said the inconvenient traffic options currently keep the number of Taiwanese tourists in the CNMI below 2,000 every year. Right now, Taiwanese travelers to the CNMI either transit through Incheon, South Korea, or Hong Kong.

The Taoyuan-Saipan route was reportedly first introduced in 2007 by EVA Airways, one of the airlines in Taiwan.

NMBAC

From Page 1

worker petitions," Nicholson told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMBAC, together with the CNMI Commerce Department and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, have tapped the services of Hive Analytics and DataTalks to assist them in completing a PWS by sector in the CNMI, a task that would establish a CNMI-specific PWS.

If the CNMI fails to come up with its own PWS, Guam's occupational prevailing wage will be the alternative basis, as provided under the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018. This is what the local business sector is trying to avoid as this is projected to significantly boost the cost of doing business in the Commonwealth.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification, in the absence of a CNMI PWS, has released a standard occupational classification list of wages for CW-1 visas that's based on Guam's Occupational Employment Statistics' mean wage.

The 24-page list includes hourly or annual wages for the likes of chief executives, cooks, food servers, engineers, teachers, and farmers. Shampooers, based on the OES adjusted wage, receive an hourly rate of $7.39 while an airline pilot, co-pilot, and flight engineers get an annual salary of $114,508.80.

NMBAC president Alex Sablan said the local Commerce Department, through its Central Statistics Division, will come out with announcements on the forms and the online process for a CNMI PWS. "We need everyone in the particular sectors. Everyone needs to comply with the requirements for the information."

"There will be an online process for smaller employers. They are asking for a spreadsheet."

Sablan said employers should send the survey forms as quickly as possible once they are done. "What we are asking for is to do all the 72 SOC codes; that's a big group of the service industry and the hospitality industry of the Commonwealth. If we can capture all of that, we can get this done by mid-May [and] people can start utilizing them by mid-May.

"But until everybody actually submits and we get a good cross-section of the business community and the workers in that community, we cannot submit and cannot complete the process. So, any businesses that delay the process, will delay our process to getting this [PWS] done sooner rather than later."

USCIS is set to begin accepting applications for CW-1 petitions starting April 4, 2019.

ERRATUM

In last Wednesday's *Saipan Tribune* issue, in the story titled "Peter sworn in as House member," the number of votes for independent candidates David C. Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo were inadvertently switched. Sablan came in third in the four-way race with 233 votes while Fajardo was fourth (194). The story also mistakenly spelled Fajardo's name as Mariana. We apologize for the mistake.

POWER

From Page 1

that it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., that there has been an increase in the average international fuel prices that will affect the FAC, one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. So far, only the FACE rate has been going up or down; the base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel-related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(PR)***

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

dent will declare that the two representatives or senators not in concurrence with each other's opinions will be mandated to resolve their differences via a single knockdown boxing match. Whoever wins the fight will end up winning the other side's support and allow for smooth passage of legislation in session.

One of the bill's subsections states that, "Trench Tech MMA will be the authorized entity to provide logistics via usage of their octagonal cage, their boxing gloves as well as in sanctioning any legislative grudges."

"What this aims to do is limit the amount of arguing we do up on the Hill and, instead of verbal sparring, we can come to an agreement based on actions speaking louder than words," said House Speaker Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan).

According to sources, the bill has the support of both the majority and the minority.

"I've honestly considered [introducing] a bill like this," said House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), "and I think it may have some leeway in settling matters that simple discussion might not be able to address. I personally have trained myself, and if the need comes where push comes to shove, my left cross will be ready to deliberate."

When asked for comments, Trench Tech president and MMA pioneer Cuki Alvarez said, "This is the best thing since sliced bread. Some of us are tired of the political bickering our elected officials have done over the years, and I feel we should allow them an alternative for resolving differences."

Alvarez indicated that statistics have shown via Sherdog that Trench Tech has had a 100 percent success rate in preventing disputes from escalating via their sanctioning of grudge matches at their events.

"What happens in the cage has usually stayed in the cage and, if this bill passes, it will take a lot of the crazy stuff debating usually brings and compromises it into one ultimate and standing decision."

If the bill passes the Legislature, it takes effect immediately upon receiving the governor's signature. When asked for comment, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said, "While we respect the legislative process, Lt. Gov. Palacios and I believe this bill is innovative and thoughtful as we create a more deliberative and collaborative Legislature."

"Finding consensus can be difficult and oftentimes contentious," Torres said, "but this bill settles all disputes through action and not necessarily by the same old words. I look forward to seeing this make its way through the Senate and on my desk for action."

Torres also told reporters he is considering asking the Legislature to add an amendment to allow the governor to referee any and all grudge matches.

Alvarez, for his part added, "I really hope this bill passes, and I would like to wish all our potential legislative competitors the best of luck and all our supporters Happy April 1st!" ***(Trench Tech)***

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, April 1, 2019, 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Kagman 3
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Algeta Drive Kagman 2 and Kagman 3
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace six wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Monday, April 1, 2019, 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Water service well(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four (4) wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-13 and A-14
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Pole replacement(s): Replace four wooden poles with concrete ones

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from CUC and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 26 wooden poles with concrete ones. This is part of CUC's ongoing effort to complete restoration work resulting from the system damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu and CUC's Water System Mitigation Project, which are both aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Happy 10th birthday, Star Marianas Air!

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Star Marianas Air fleet consists of 11 aircraft (five Piper Navajo Chieftains and six Piper Cherokee Sixes). This year it will be adding three more Cherokee Sixes.

Star Marianas Air is celebrating its 10th year of providing air transportation to passenger and goods in the CNMI and Guam, connecting the islands in this part of the Pacific and making sure that family and friends stay connected and that commerce stays dynamic with the uninterrupted flow of goods.

Star Marianas president Shaun Christian said that SMA runs on average over 150 flights every day, "making us one of the busiest airlines in the Pacific in terms of total flights flown."

That translates to over half of a million flights, millions of pounds of cargo transported, and countless medical patients who require urgent medical care flown within the CNMI and to Guam.

"We are the only scheduled airline based in the CNMI and we are one of the largest employers on Tinian," Christian added.

Founded on Tinian in 2008, Star Marianas Air initially operated with a single trip route as a charter flight provider for the islands of Saipan and Tinian. It received initial certification from the Federal Administration Agency as an on-demand air carrier effective April 1, 2009. Its first flight was a charter between Tinian and Saipan on April 2, 2009.

Initially, the company provided passenger and cargo service using three Piper Cherokee Six aircraft. In 2010, it added three more Cherokee Sixes to its fleet.

In May 2011, Star Marianas Air began operating cargo charters between Saipan and Rota at the request of the leadership of Rota, who was facing air and sea cargo service challenges, Christian said.

In July 2011, the company added cargo charters between Guam and Rota.

Because of the high demand but limited operations in using a single aircraft, SMA began efforts to add a twin-engine aircraft to its fleet in 2012 so that they could begin serving Rota with passenger flights.

In February 2013, it received FAA approval to begin operating its first twin-engine Piper Navajo Chieftain and started passenger charter flights to Rota and Guam, Christian said.

In June 2014, the company was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation and FAA to conduct scheduled passenger flights throughout the Mariana Islands as an FAA-certificated regional airline conducting commuter operations.

That explains the word "Star" in Star Marianas Air, Christian said; the word is an acronym of Saipan, Tinian, Aguiguan, and Rota.

SMA also has a strong focus on helping. That includes working with Toys for Tots in the past two years to bring holiday donations to children on Tinian and Rota.

In preparation for Super Typhoon Yutu last October, the company flew its aircraft to Guam to be secured away from the storm. In the morning after the storm passed, SMA began flying its planes back to Tinian from Guam filled with thousands of pounds of relief supplies.

"Two days after the storm had passed we were requested to fly medical supplies, including desperately-needed blood, from Saipan to Tinian before the Saipan airport was officially open for recovery flights. As soon as Saipan's airport was opened we worked to quickly resume operations, working out of a tent and using a company vehicle to power an inverter.

"Within three weeks after the storm, we had flown over 3,000 passengers and 200,000 lbs of cargo in support of relief efforts," he added.

According to Christian, SMA's mission for the last 10 years and beyond is to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable air transportation at an affordable price—one that "benefits the communities we serve and creates an environment that allows for economic development of those communities."

So far, the SMA fleet consists of 11 aircraft (five Piper Navajo Chieftains and six Piper Cherokee Sixes). This year it will be adding three more Cherokee Sixes.

That will increase its passenger capacity between Saipan and Tinian, as well as provide more lift for cargo to and from Rota.

The company employs a total of 145 people, including 40 pilots in Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan combined.

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I

Announcement # JVA19-010
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 - $22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818 / 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I

Announcement # JVA19-011
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Justice and under the direct of the Chief Marshal in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Perform general court security duties, including providing safety and security during judicial proceedings, maintaining order in the courtroom and during prisoner processing, providing protection from harm and personal injury to assigned justices, judges, court personnel, clients, jurors and witnesses;
- Provide protection from damage and vandalism to the court facilities, equipment, and other related resources;
- Assist with all necessary inspection and screening of persons and items entering the court facilities, restricting from entry those that are prohibited within the court premises;
- Provide physical and electronic security monitoring of all assigned areas under the control of the Marshals Service Division;
- Provide Protective Service Detail (PSD) personal security for all justices and judges on official business outside the court premises;
- Assist in transporting and escorting prisoners and other detainees who are awaiting court appearance. This includes transporting prisoners to and from the Department of Corrections (or from other locations as instructed) and the courthouse; to and from the courthouse holding cells and the courtrooms;
- Assist in protecting and transporting jurors and other court personnel during jury trial and deliberation;
- Assist with court bailiff functions, community policing, community supervision, compliance checks;
- Assist in the preparation of reports of service and no-service, including submission of daily activity and incident reports;
- Provide the general public with direction and general information on all judicial service locations with the courthouse;
- Provides assistance to superiors and other law enforcement personnel, particularly in operations, dispatching information;
- Prepares official reports with clarity and completeness on reports submitted to supervisors during the duty shift;
- Coordinates incoming requests for service at the Marshals Service Division and dispatch personnel in an efficient manner which will serve the public;
- Ensure proper handling and disposition of all in-custody prisoners/detainees; provide security, enforcement of established rules and regulations and others, which are provided herein. This critical task requires Deputies to escort prisoners/defendants to hearings as directed;
- Assists in all phases of law enforcement operations, including conducting investigations related criminal cases and or complaints of alleged violation of law, rules, and regulations filed with the Judiciary;
- Serves summons subpoenas and other official documents;
- Examines files and secures evidence and records as required;
- Serves warrants for arrests, searches, and seizures as necessary;
- Possess skills necessary for the useof and care of firearms, and performs and enforces the CNMI Weapons Control Act and Federal Firearms Regulations. Applicant is required to pass either a CNMI Law Enforcement or Federal Firearms Certification course and meet the criteria for annual firearms qualification to carry firearms under the Marshals Service Division Firearms Standard Operating Procedures;
- Must meet the physical fitness and agility requirements testing standards approved by the Chief Marshal or designee;
- Attends and successfully completes all training courses as directed by the Chief Marshal, including but not limited to, any law enforcement officers training courses offered through the Northern Marians College, local law enforcement and Federal law enforcement agencies;
- Assists the other Deputy Marshals in their duties; and
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one-year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Law Enforcement Academy Training Preferred, but not required.

Successful candidates must complete and pass law enforcement training, including firearms qualification, during the probationary period.

Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary will be $20,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
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This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

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CELEBRATING

10 Years

OF SERVICE,
GROWTH, &
CONNECTING
THE MARIANAS

STAR
Marianas Air

In honor of our **10th Anniversary** we will be giving away commemorative hats and aluminum water bottles to passengers travelling on April 1st while supplies last.

The busiest little airline in the Pacific!

Saipan to Rota

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
1301	Saipan	Rota	7:30	8:00	Daily
1302	Saipan	Rota	11:30	12:00	Daily
1303	Saipan	Rota	16:00	16:30	Daily

Rota to Saipan

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
3101	Rota	Saipan	8:15	8:45	Daily
3102	Rota	Saipan	13:45	14:15	Daily
3103	Rota	Saipan	16:45	17:15	Daily

Rota to Guam

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
3401	Rota	Guam	12:15	12:45	Daily

Guam to Rota

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
4301	Guam	Rota	13:00	13:30	Daily

Saipan to Tinian

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
1201	Saipan	Tinian	7:00	7:15	Daily
1202	Saipan	Tinian	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	Saipan	Tinian	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	Saipan	Tinian	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	Saipan	Tinian	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	Saipan	Tinian	12:00	12:15	Daily
1207	Saipan	Tinian	13:00	13:15	Daily
1208	Saipan	Tinian	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	Saipan	Tinian	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	Saipan	Tinian	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	Saipan	Tinian	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	Saipan	Tinian	18:00	18:15	Daily

Tinian to Saipan

Flight #	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Frequency
2102	Tinian	Saipan	7:30	7:45	Daily
2103	Tinian	Saipan	8:30	8:45	Daily
2104	Tinian	Saipan	9:30	9:45	Daily
2105	Tinian	Saipan	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	Tinian	Saipan	11:30	11:45	Daily
2107	Tinian	Saipan	12:30	12:45	Daily
2108	Tinian	Saipan	13:30	13:45	Daily
2109	Tinian	Saipan	14:30	14:45	Daily
2110	Tinian	Saipan	15:30	15:45	Daily
2111	Tinian	Saipan	16:30	16:45	Daily
2112	Tinian	Saipan	17:30	17:45	Daily
2113	Tinian	Saipan	18:30	18:45	Daily

Hangar One West Tinian Airport - PO BOX 520461 - Tinian, MP 96952 USA – Northern Mariana Islands
http://www.starmarianasair.com

Literacy program completes 1st session since Yutu

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program recently celebrated the successful spring completion of six elementary schools on Saipan throughout March despite the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Forty-seven parents and 78 children participated in eight Motheread/Fatheread adult courses and story exploring classes for children held from January to March.

The parents participated in classes that aided them in exploring the world of literacy in their homes while their children read stories of their own with lots of fun arts and crafts, listening to music and other activities.

Through the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program would like to thank the following for participating in these courses:

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at Kagman Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School: March 5, 2019

■ Eleven parents participated: Benita Seman, Lisa Emwalu, Abrahama M. Amirez, Juvy M. Taitano, Mary Reyes, Geoanne S. Nuique, Laurie Ketebengang, Ina Limes, Kristy Sablan, Jerrena Romolor, and Ellen Piteg.

Parent trainer, Rita B. Demapan.

■ Eighteen children participated: Amber Than, Ashton Than, Alexandra Birnbrich, Cindylynn Mettao, Franklin Mettao, Jollyann Mettao, Jacob Camacho, Mariyah Camacho, Aurora Teregeyo, Kikuo Teregeyo, Zoe Teregeyo, Tori Teregeyo, Lina Ikea, Napu Reyes, Maya Camacho, MJ Limes, Ariani Camacho, Marleni Camacho.

Story exploring instructor, Beth Demapan.

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William S. Reyes: March 20, 2019

■ Five parents participated: Brenda Lynn C. Lucido, Anita Cornista, Joey Camacho, Hazel Dela Santa, Enhua Palacios.

Parent trainer, Angelina Yobech

■ Nine children participated: Princess Gabriel Gariguez, Alejandra R. Camacho, Jed Cornista, Farrell Dela Santa, Heleyna Dela Santos, Giovannielyn Camacho, David Camacho, Devin Palacios, Zhiyan Palacios.

Story exploring instructor, Nakita Braganza.

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at GTC Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School: March 13, 2019

■ Thirteen parents participated: Sashana Atalig, Joanne Santos, Hannahleiy Ogarto, Marycris Rebusora, Laura L. Camacho, Lee Roy M. Camacho, Chassie Castro, Heather Otiwi, Inok Lee, Marlene Cruz, George Cruz, Eleanor Aguon, Yonghee Jin

Parent trainer, Maria Athens Amaro.

■ 16 children participated: Davileen Camacho, Alexandra Birnbrich, Kalea Agulto, Brayden Otiwi, Animu Otiwi, Camille Fernandez, Marky Fernandez, Siwoo Lee, Seung Woo Lee, Isabella Camacho, Tyrone Tarkong, Avah Tarkong, Eleanor Babauta, Deon Sablan, Risa Sablan, Deina Sablan.

Story exploring instructor, Pualani Palacios).

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at Garapan Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garapan Elementary School: March 18, 2019

■ Eight parents participated: Roxanie Lynn Kaipat, Brenda Lynn Lucido, Jemal Mohamed Indiyas, Langxue Fen, Gita Malik, Leona Peter, Joyce Clave, Connie Alexander.

Parent trainer, Celina Foreman

■ Twelve children participated: Delfina Dowai, Jackileigh Dowai, Albrent Lucido, Lexy Lang Jamal, Dominic Dowai, Menmoy Malik, Tyleray Borja, Jacob Borja, Winona Janine, Walter Josh Clave, Mark Aldan, Mariano Alexander.

Story exploring instructor, Lyzandra Barcinas.

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at Koblerville Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School: March 12, 2019

■ Eight parents participated: Mina Asep, Charmy C. Sundiam, Geraldine Imperial, Trinidad Pangilinan, Ana Rita Joseph, Erlynda Elewel K, Mailin D. Mality, Blanco Reyanne.

Parent trainer, Mercedes Deleon Guerrero

■ Twenty-one children participated: Alice Chen, Ichiama Asep, Memam Asep, Obama Siech, Kisama Siech, Heaven Love Siech, Cee Jay C. Sundiam, Nicole C. Sundiam, Kobe Imperial, Johanan Imperial, Laraya Imperial, Michael Joe Pangilinan, Olivia Ruth Pangilinan, Arturo Manuel Pangilinan, Darlinicia Masga, Mayanna Nego, Michael Nego, Marcus Nego, Jayden Risana, Jasmine Risana, Elewel Montrea.

Story exploring class , Nolyn Villagomez

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremony at San Vicente Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School: March 8, 2019

■ Two parents participated: Valerie F. Santos, Jennifer C. Camacho.

Parent trainer, Debbie Canete.

■ Two children participated: Aubrielle Santos, Hayden Camacho.

Story exploring class, Leoralynn S. Terlaje).

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Program would like to extend their appreciation to the following individuals/schools who assisted with all logistics and accommodations: Kagman Elementary School administration and their principal, Dr. Ignacia T. Demapan; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School administration, principal Raena Camacho and vice principal Melisa Mendez; Koblerville Elementary School administration, Koblerville Elementary School principal Jeremiah Benavente and vice principal Mercedes Deleon Guerrero who was also the parent trainer for Koblerville Elementary School; William S. Reyes Elementary School principal Naomi Nishimura, vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan and the William S. Reyes administration; Garapan Elementary School administration, principal Leila Yumul, Garapan Elementary School teacher Lyzandra Barcinas who was also story exploring instructor; San Vicente Elementary School administrators, principal Paulette Sablan, Viola Deleon Guerrero, teacher Debbie Canete, parent trainer for San Vicente Elementary School.

Motheread, Inc. is a nationally acclaimed private, nonprofit organization that combines the teaching of literacy skills with child development and family empowerment issues. Parents and children learn to use the power of language to discover more about themselves their families, and their communities.

Motheread offers classes for both the adults and children. In adult classes, participants learn to be story readers, writers, and tellers in a group structure that supports their own sense of worth and ability. These classes are appropriate for all adults, regardless of reading ability or prior educational experience. By teaching the "why" of reading rather than just emphasizing the "how," classes encourage parents to be reading role models for their children. For children, story exploring provides a structured environment for learning reading, critical-thinking, and problem solving skills.

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is administered by the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Schedules for interested private schools and organizations/agencies could be arranged by contacting Beth Demapan or Cassandra Deleon Guerrero at 235-7319/783-7678/285-2279 or email: cnmimotheread@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

To merchants who have accepted Visa and Mastercard at any time from January 1, 2004 to January 25, 2019: Notice of a class action settlement of approximately $5.54-6.24 Billion.

Si desea leer este aviso en español, llámenos o visite nuestro sitio web, www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

Notice of a class action settlement authorized by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

This notice is authorized by the Court to inform you about an agreement to settle a class action lawsuit that may affect you. The lawsuit claims that Visa and Mastercard, separately, and together with certain banks, violated antitrust laws and caused merchants to pay excessive fees for accepting Visa and Mastercard credit and debit cards, including by:

- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called *default interchange fees*);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and Mastercard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. The Court has given preliminary approval to this settlement.

The Settlement

Under the settlement, Visa, Mastercard, and the bank defendants have agreed to provide approximately $6.24 billion in class settlement funds. Those funds are subject to a deduction to account for certain merchants that exclude themselves from the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class, but in no event will the deduction be greater than $700 million. The net class settlement fund will be used to pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or Mastercard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and January 25, 2019.

This settlement creates the following Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class: All persons, businesses, and other entities that have accepted any Visa-Branded Cards and/or Mastercard-Branded Cards in the United States at any time from January 1, 2004 to January 25, 2019, except that the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class shall not include (a) the Dismissed Plaintiffs, (b) the United States government, (c) the named Defendants in this Action or their directors, officers, or members of their families, or (d) financial institutions that have issued Visa-Branded Cards or Mastercard-Branded Cards or acquired Visa-Branded Card transactions or Mastercard-Branded Card transactions at any time from January 1, 2004 to January 25, 2019. The Dismissed Plaintiffs are plaintiffs that previously settled and dismissed their own lawsuit against a Defendant, and entities related to those plaintiffs. If you are uncertain about whether you may be a Dismissed Plaintiff, you should call 1-800-625-6440 or visit www.PaymentCardSettlement.com for more information.

What Merchants will get from the Settlement

Every merchant in the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class that does not exclude itself from the class by the deadline described below and files a valid claim will get money from the class settlement fund. The value of each claim will be based on the actual or estimated interchange fees attributable to the merchant's Mastercard and Visa payment card transactions from January 1, 2004 to January 25, 2019. *Pro rata* payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the class settlement fund will be based on:

- The amount in the class settlement fund after the deductions described below,
- The deduction to account for certain merchants who exclude themselves from the class,
- Deductions for the cost of settlement administration and notice, applicable taxes on the settlement fund and any other related tax expenses, money awarded to the Rule 23(b)(3) Class Plaintiffs for their service on behalf of the Class, and attorneys' fees and expenses, all as approved by the Court, and
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed.

Attorneys' fees and expenses and service awards for the Rule 23(b)(3) Class Plaintiffs: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the class settlement fund, not to exceed 10% of the class settlement fund, to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute the funds, and litigate any appeals, Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates. Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel will also request (i) an award of their litigation expenses (not including the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed $40 million and (ii) up to $250,000 per each of the eight Rule 23(b)(3) Class Plaintiffs in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class.

How to Ask for Payment

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com, or call: 1-800-625-6440.

Legal Rights and Options

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- **File a claim to ask for payment.** Once you receive a claim form, you can submit it via mail or email, or may file it online at www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.
- **Exclude yourself** from the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you can individually sue the Defendants on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than **July 23, 2019**, or send it by overnight delivery shown as sent by **July 23, 2019**, to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. Your written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words "In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation," (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class, and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, "doing business as" names, taxpayer identification number(s), and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be excluded. You also are requested to provide for each such business or brand name, if reasonably available: the legal name of any parent (if applicable), dates Visa or Mastercard card acceptance began (if after January 1, 2004) and ended (if prior to January 25, 2019), names of all banks that acquired the Visa or Mastercard card transactions, and acquiring merchant ID(s).
- **Object to the settlement.** The deadline to object is **July 23, 2019**. To learn how to object, visit www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440. Note: If you exclude yourself from the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class you cannot object to the settlement.

For more information about these rights and options, visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

If the Court Approves the Final Settlement

Members of the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class who do not exclude themselves by the deadline will be bound by the terms of this settlement, including the release of claims against the released parties provided in the settlement agreement, whether or not the members file a claim for payment.

The settlement will resolve and release claims by class members for monetary compensation or injunctive relief against Visa, Mastercard, or other defendants. The release bars the following claims:

- Claims based on conduct and rules that were alleged or raised in the litigation, or that could have been alleged or raised in the litigation relating to its subject matter. This includes any claims based on interchange fees, network fees, merchant discount fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules, and certain other conduct and rules. These claims are released if they already have accrued or accrue in the future up to five years following the court's approval of the settlement and the resolution of all appeals.
- Claims based on rules in the future that are substantially similar to – i.e., do not change substantively the nature of – the above-mentioned rules as they existed as of preliminary approval of the settlement. These claims based on future substantially similar rules are released if they accrue up to five years following the court's approval of the settlement and the resolution of all appeals.

The settlement's resolution and release of these claims is intended to be consistent with and no broader than federal law on the identical factual predicate doctrine.

The release does *not* extinguish the following claims:

- Claims based on conduct or rules that could not have been alleged or raised in the litigation.
- Claims based on future rules that are not substantially similar to rules that were or could have been alleged or raised in the litigation.
- Any claims that accrue more than five years after the court's approval of the settlement and the resolution of any appeals.

The release also will have the effect of extinguishing all similar or overlapping claims in any other actions, including but not limited to the claims asserted in a California state court class action brought on behalf of California citizen merchants and captioned *Nuts for Candy v. Visa, Inc., et al.*, No. 17-01482 (San Mateo County Superior Court). Pursuant to an agreement between the parties in *Nuts for Candy*, subject to and upon final approval of the settlement of the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class, the plaintiff in *Nuts for Candy* will request that the California state court dismiss the *Nuts for Candy* action. Plaintiff's counsel in *Nuts for Candy* may seek an award in *Nuts for Candy* of attorneys' fees not to exceed $6,226,640.00 and expenses not to exceed $493,697.56. Any fees or expenses awarded in *Nuts for Candy* will be separately funded and will not reduce the settlement funds available to members of the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class.

The release **does not** bar the injunctive relief claims or the declaratory relief claims that are a predicate for the injunctive relief claims asserted in the pending proposed Rule 23(b)(2) class action captioned *Barry's Cut Rate Stores, Inc., et. al. v. Visa, Inc., et al.*, MDL No. 1720, Docket No. 05-md-01720-MKB-JO ("*Barry's*"). Injunctive relief claims are claims to prohibit or require certain conduct. They do not include claims for payment of money, such as damages, restitution, or disgorgement. As to all such claims for declaratory or injunctive relief in *Barry's*, merchants will retain all rights pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure which they have as a named representative plaintiff or absent class member in *Barry's*, except that merchants remaining in the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class **will release** their right to initiate a new and separate action for the period up to five (5) years following the court's approval of the settlement and the exhaustion of appeals.

The release also does not bar certain claims asserted in the class action captioned *B&R Supermarket, Inc., et al. v. Visa, Inc., et al.*, No. 17-CV-02738 (E.D.N.Y.), or claims based on certain standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the full mailed Notice to Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class Members and the settlement agreement at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

The Court Hearing about this Settlement

On **November 7, 2019**, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement. The hearing also will address the Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel's requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the Rule 23(b)(3) Class Plaintiffs for their representation of merchants in MDL 1720, which culminated in the settlement agreement. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the Court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins Kaplan LLP, Berger Montague PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP as Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel to represent the Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class.

Questions?

For more information about this case (*In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1720), you may:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440
Visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com
Write to the Class Administrator:
Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement
P.O. Box 2530
Portland, OR 97208-2530
Email: info@PaymentCardSettlement.com

Please check www.PaymentCardSettlement.com for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Carnage from gun violence mounts. Congress does nothing.

The casualties of a mass shooting are not only those killed or wounded in the burst of gunfire. The damage reverberates, often for years, sometimes magnifying a family's tragedy.

Sadly, this country has borne witness to that awful truth many times. And we are reeling once again, this time from the recent news that three people connected to two of our worst national nightmares took their own lives.

Two were students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed last year on Valentine's Day. One, a 16-year-old boy who has not been identified, was a current student and a ninth-grader at the time of the shooting. The other, 19-year-old Sydney Aiello, was a 2018 graduate who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and was struggling with survivor's guilt after one of her best friends, Meadow Pollack, was slaughtered.

On Monday, Jeremy Richman, the father of a first-grader killed in the 2012 massacre of 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, was found dead in an apparent suicide in the building that housed a program he founded to support research on brain abnormalities linked to violent behavior. Richman, a neuropharmacologist who had two other small children, spoke just last week about research on identifying symptoms of people in crisis in a summit at Florida Atlantic University, a short distance from Parkland.

Despite the immeasurable heartache, Congress still refuses to pass sensible gun control legislation. But on Tuesday, the Republican-controlled Senate did finally hold a gun control hearing. The Judiciary Committee heard testimony about "red flag" laws that define under what circumstances authorities can confiscate guns from people deemed to be risks to themselves or others. The alleged Parkland gunman fell into that category.

Committee chairman Lindsey Graham said Congress should be able to pass legislation to incentivize states to pass red flag laws, which have been adopted in 14 states, including New York. Unfortunately, Graham ruled out federal red flag legislation, which would be far more effective.

Nor is the Senate likely to pass a bill approved in the House to mandate background checks on all gun sales, a measure backed by the vast majority of Americans. That's distressing; New Zealand banned automatic weapons six days after 50 people were killed in attacks on two mosques there earlier this month.

The only bright spot is that President Donald Trump's new regulation banning bump stocks—which enable rapid firing of semiautomatic guns and were used by the Las Vegas gunman to kill 59 people in 2017—did take effect Tuesday despite gun-rights activists' attempts to seek court injunctions.

So we muddle along—overwhelmed by the endless tragedy of gun violence, angered by the shameful lack of action in Congress to do anything about it.

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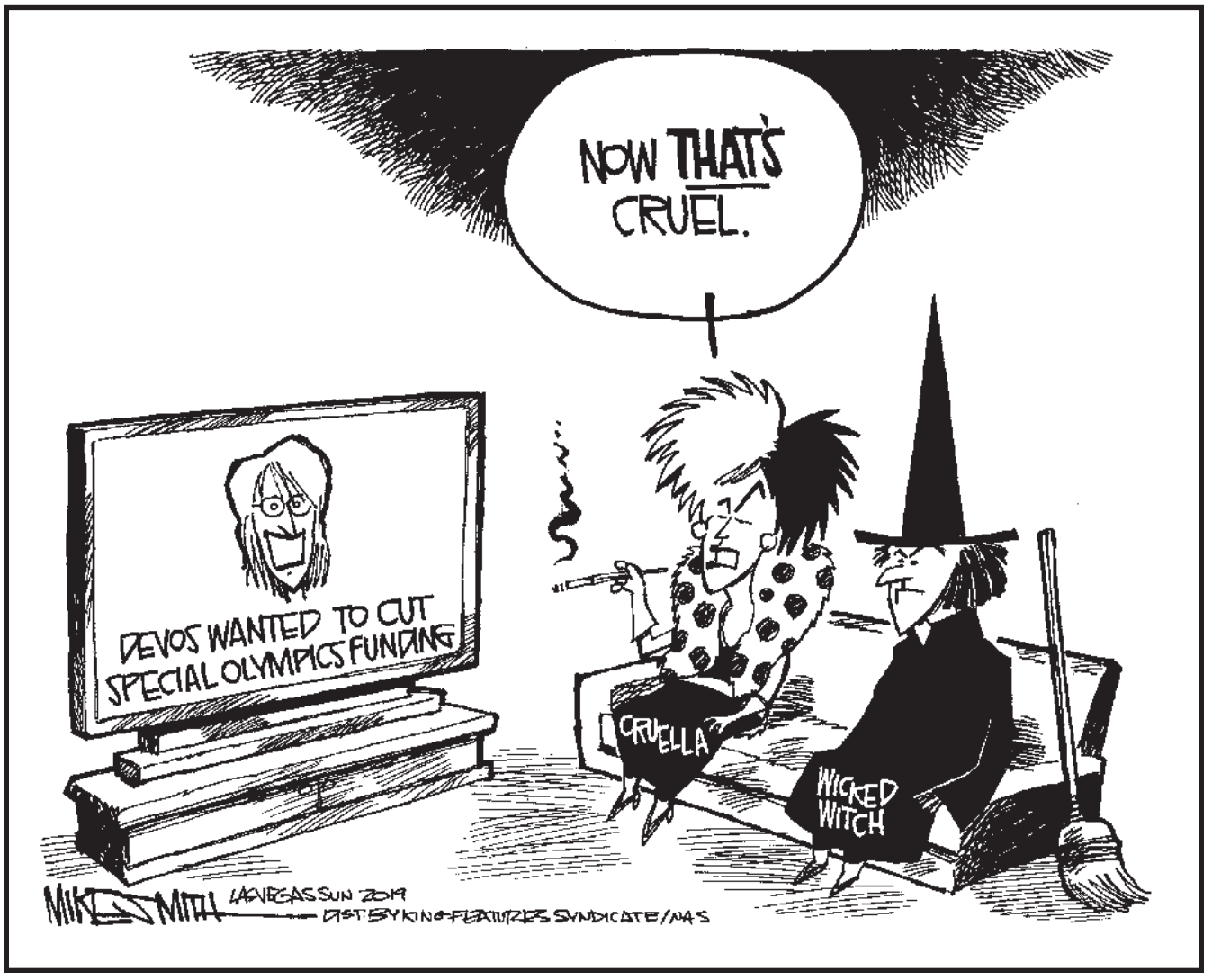
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Puerto Rico needs more than a morale boost to recover from its disasters

By LUISITA LOPEZ TORREGROSA
Los Angeles Times

Luisita Lopez Torregrosa is a journalist and former editor at the New York Times. *She is the author of two nonfiction books, most recently* Before the Rain: A Memoir of Love & Revolution.

After a stretch of disastrous years that included a recession, a debt crisis, bankruptcy, a hurricane and the exodus of thousands of residents from the island, 2019 is shaping up to be a good year for Puerto Rico—or at least for Puerto Rican morale.

Several things came together, mostly by chance, to lift the island's spirits and give Puerto Ricans a sense of hope. That is due, in important measure, to two New York Puerto Ricans, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who have brought the world's attention to the island.

Miranda's rise to fame in the United States was meteoric, and earlier this year, he reflected some of that glory back onto his family's homeland with a three-week staging of "Hamilton" in San Juan. The production lured thousands of American and international visitors to the island in January and raised $14 million for Puerto Rican artists and arts institutions. It ended with an epic final performance, after which Miranda tearfully wrapped himself in the Puerto Rican flag and brought down the house.

And then there's Ocasio-Cortez, who also has Puerto Rican parents and has had her own phenomenal rise to celebrity, culminating with her swearing in as a U.S. congresswoman in January. She has not visited the island since 2016, but has called for the end to the territory's colonial status and was photographed holding up the Puerto Rican flag.

Her upset victory over a high-ranking incumbent Anglo congressman made her an instant hit in her ancestral home. "Love her or hate her, the way she has carried herself reflects well on Puerto Rico," said San Juan attorney and Democratic Party insider Andres W. Lopez. Now, he said, he is waiting to see if Ocasio-Cortez highlights issues that involve Puerto Rico directly.

The limelight associated with Puerto Rico's famous progeny, a group that also includes Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, has arguably already brought some benefit to the island. The New York Times, for example, recently named Puerto Rico the world's No. 1 travel destination for 2019, something hotel consultant Simon Baeyertz says represents a real achievement, and not simply a "pity party for the hurricane."

But leveraging the recent feel-good moments for long-term benefit will take far more.

The bankrupt island is operating under the strict oversight of a federal fiscal panel, which has brought punishing austerity measures. Unemployment is at 8.3 percent, more than double the U.S. rate overall, and 44 percent live below the poverty line.

The island has to reckon too with an inept and corrupt system of patronage and an over-dependence on government jobs and welfare.

On the plus side are attractive tax incentives for investors, affordable property values, a spate of economic activity related to hurricane rebuilding (with $1.5 billion in federal block grants for recovery on the way), and a general sense that the bottom has been hit.

Tourism is the most visible sign of better times. Old San Juan is again busy with visitors. Quaint hill towns and beaches in Isabela, Rincon, and Vieques also report increased tourism. And new, high-end boutique hotels are opening in the hotspot Condado district, known as one of the Caribbean's "capitals of cool."

"In a way, it's as if the hurricane has connected the island with the mainland in a way I have never felt," said Baeyertz.

The trick now will be strengthening that connection. For more than a century, Puerto Rico has had a complicated relationship with the United States. Though Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, those living in the island territory cannot vote in federal elections. They also do not pay federal taxes. The island receives less federal aid per capita for programs such as like Medicare, Medicaid and hurricane recovery than states do.

Many Puerto Ricans consider statehood the only answer to their island's woes. Last year, Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rossello, sent a letter to President Trump urging him to support the island becoming a state and to abandon "territorial-colonialism." But advocates haven't successfully carried the fight to the U.S. Congress, which has the final say, and where statehood for

See DISASTERS on Next Page

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Don't fall for the myth that you 'can't sing'

By AMY NATHAN
Chicago Tribune

Amy Nathan is a choir member and author of Making Time for Making Music: How to Bring Music into Your Busy Life.

"When I was in kindergarten or first grade, during a singing session, the teacher pointed to me and said, 'You there in the back, just mouth the words.' I never sang again until I was nearly 60. Not in front of other people, not in front of the dog, not in the shower. I felt I couldn't sing," Steven Duke, a retired Chicago journalist, said.

Duke's story is familiar to many people. Their experiences—and their efforts to overcome that childhood curse—carry a message for today's parents and teachers, as well as hope for those still trying to catch a tune.

Whether it's an offhand comment from a harried classroom teacher, as was probably true in Duke's case, or a snarky remark from a relative or fellow karaoke singer, "being told 'don't use your voice' scars people. Your voice is so personal," said Carol Kagy, a Chicago voice teacher who specializes in adult newcomers such as Duke. He signed up for voice lessons to learn more about singing after he discovered during his 50s that, in fact, he can sing. He made this discovery in a group guitar class at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music with an encouraging instructor who insisted that everyone sing together the songs the class was learning to strum.

Other adults have overcome a "can't sing" phobia by joining community choirs that welcome newcomers and have choral directors who know how to lead warmups that loosen people up and get them blending harmoniously with others.

Experts say that nearly everyone can learn to sing. "For some, singing in tune comes easier than for others," Kagy said. "That doesn't mean you can't get it. I've worked with a lot of people who can't match pitch and I always get them to sing in tune. It can take a while. You have to teach people how to really listen and how to feel the sound in your mouth—not in the throat. The throat has to remain totally uninvolved."

Luckily, music educators who work with children are taking a more supportive approach now, according to Debra Glaze, chair of the Council for Choral Educators of the National Association for Music Education. "We don't give up on those who can't yet sing in tune as was commonly done back in the day," she said. "That's the teacher's job, to keep working at developing the children's musical aptitudes and inherent musicality."

Stephen Chinn, a teacher in Mamaroneck, N.Y., has used that approach in more than 30 years as an elementary school music teacher. Many students at first had trouble singing in tune, but, "I've had zero kids that can't learn to do it. We describe to them that a high note feels a certain way, a low note feels another way. It's like having muscle memory when you do sports. Once you physically know what you're shooting for, you can get close to it. Everybody sings in my choirs."

Robert Lyda, an elementary school music teacher in Auburn, Ala., explained how he teaches singing: "I create the music classroom as a safe place to try things and a safe place to fail, where we don't dwell on it when they fail, but say, 'OK. We'll try that again later.' "

However, he isn't sure that sidelining struggling singers has disappeared totally, judging from future teachers he's had as students. When they become teachers, they will be expected to lead children in song, but some had very low musical self-esteem from less-than-positive musical experiences as youngsters, not just in singing class but in band and orchestra too. He had to help them find their own musicality so they could engage musically with children.

"Can't sing" phobias may also spring from cultural issues, according to Northwestern University researcher Steven Demorest. In many cultures, musical activities are "participatory"—the goal is to be part of a musical group no matter how good you are at music. "Our culture tends to be more 'presentational'—the goal is to perform, and perform well," he said.

An overemphasis on the idea of "talent" also plays a role. Is music a talent that you either have or don't have—or is music something anyone can get good at with practice? Demorest is a you-can-get-better-if-you-practice believer but notes that TV shows such as "American Idol" bombard people with the talent-or-else idea. If that gets transmitted to youngsters who struggle at singing or other music activities, they may conclude that they don't have that elusive something called talent and may then choose—as Demorest's research suggests—not to go on in any kind of music activity.

"They could miss out on many of the social and cognitive benefits of music participation," he observed. Studies have found that singing with others makes people healthier and happier. So does playing an instrument.

To prevent "can't sing" phobias, Demorest recommends that parents sing with their kids from the time they are little—without worrying about how good anyone sounds. Sing for fun at home as the stereo or radio plays, or sing on a car trip. Sing songs the parents loved growing up or the youngsters' favorites from movies or TV.

If an older child starts to shy away from singing, see if the school music teacher could offer some encouraging help. Or look for a community youth choir the youngster could join. The joyful energy that comes from singing with others can help uncertain singers of any age discover that they're pretty good singers after all.

As Ted Dawson, an Arizona resource room teacher who started singing as an adult, said: "Turn off those singing shows on TV that make fun of 'bad singers' and go find a song to sing."

Don't underestimate free-market capitalism

By JOHN MANZELLA
Tribune News Service

John Manzella, founder of the ManzellaReport.com, is an author and speaker on global business, emerging risks and economic trends. To contact him, visit www.JohnManzella.com.

American free-market capitalism has generated the greatest economic growth that the world has ever seen. At the core of its brilliance is its ability to create incentives to produce solutions to problems and to distribute those solutions worldwide. In doing so, it has paved the way for tremendous gains in efficiency and productivity while lifting millions of people out of poverty.

When discussing its benefits, the late author and philosopher Michael Novak said: "No other system so rapidly raises up the living standards of the poor, so thoroughly improves the conditions of life, or generates greater social wealth and distributes it more broadly. In the long competition of the last 100 years, neither socialist nor third-world experiments have performed as well in improving the lot of common people."

For centuries, the American experiment has embraced free-market capitalism along with the rule of law, separation of church and state, entrepreneurialism, balance of power, the welcoming of immigrants and a brilliant Constitution. This "secret sauce" has created a stable environment encouraging entrepreneurs to take risks and empowering people to unleash their creativity to achieve their dreams.

After dozens of speaking engagements in Mexico in the early 1990s, I found that many in the audience either had an American passport or badly wanted one. When I crossed through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin as the Berlin Wall was coming down, I was told by countless East Germans of their wish to move to the United States to seek a better life. And when visiting China, young Chinese often tell me of their desire to study in America or permanently move here.

What draws so many people to the United States? America's "secret sauce" continues to provide tremendous advantages that few other countries can.

However, due to flaws revealed during the Great Recession that began in 2008 and throughout its slow and uneven recovery, many Americans began to question the credibility of our economic model.

In efforts to help those struggling to get ahead and create greater economic opportunities for all, some elected officials are advocating left-leaning (some would say "socialist") policies that give the state too much decision-making authority. And herein lies the problem.

Stated by author John Steele Gordon: "Politicians can only make political decisions, not economic ones. They are, after all, first and foremost in the re-election business. Because of the need to be re-elected, politicians are always likely to have a short-term bias."

Additionally, government service providers lack competition, a primary factor that makes capitalism so successful, and have less incentive to become more efficient, productive, innovative and accountable. If left unchecked, economic decisions made by the market today could become decisions made by policymakers tomorrow who assume they know better.

Michael Novak also stressed that checks and balances are to the political order what competition is to capitalism. China, for example, does not have a system of checks and balances, nor one that promotes competition. As a result, its brand of one-party capitalism is undergoing difficulties that are likely to become more severe in the years ahead.

Other examples where the state substituted its decision-making ability for that of the market include the former Soviet Union, North Korea, and Venezuela—all failed states.

On the other hand, the American system of capitalism is far from perfect.

Some argue that our system is in a constant struggle to achieve a balance between the wealthiest and the rest, but in recent years has shifted too much power to the top, creating greater inequality. Others assert that crony capitalism, which exists when competition is unfairly limited, is too pervasive. And still others claim that their ability to reach the middle class has become nearly impossible.

In an effort to improve economic outcomes for all Americans, it's essential to continually improve our system of free-market capitalism—not move toward a more socialist-like model that empowers politicians to make decisions that should be made by the market.

Free market capitalism is responsible for improving the living standards of millions or even billions of people around the world. It's also responsible for creating the wealth that, through taxation, supports essential government services, social programs and safety nets.

Seeking the right balance between the market and the state is critical. But in the process let's be sure to improve America's "secret sauce," not poison it.

DISASTERS

From Page 10

Puerto Rico is neither urgent nor favored.

Some Puerto Ricans hope that high-profile Puerto Ricans on the mainland will help—as will the 5.1 million Puerto Ricans who live on the mainland and can help swing elections in some areas

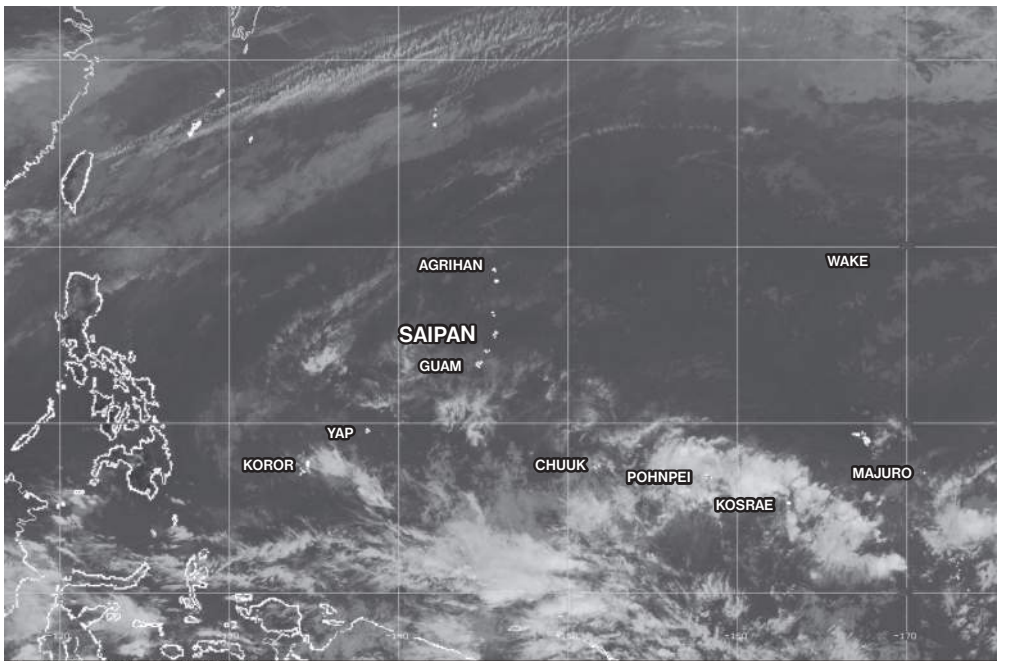
"After spending decades as outsiders, in the margins of American society, the fact that everywhere you look in 2019, Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans are in the thick of it—that is welcome indeed," Lopez told me. "All of these developments have something in common: They place Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans squarely in the middle of the national conversation."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming Northeast on Wednesday.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming Northeast on Wednesday.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:41 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds and spotty showers are moving across the Marianas this morning. An upper-level ridge extends westward across the north of Guam and Rota which will provide subsident dry air over the region this afternoon. Combined seas between 5 and 7 feet are reported from the buoys around Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 76°
Palau	Showers	84° / 75°
Yap	Showers	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	68° / 59°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	55° / 32°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 68°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 68°
London	Mostly Sunny	52° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 70°
New York	Partly Cloudy	50° / 38°
Osaka	Showers	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	57° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	61° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	54° / 32°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Sunny	53° / 38°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
12:04 PM	LOW TIDE	0.97
5:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:32 AM	3:16 PM	-
Tuesday	4:12 AM	4:04 PM	-
Wednesday	4:51 AM	4:52 PM	-
Thursday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	6:27 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:50pm	7:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/193	6:25pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/1596:25pm		11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174 GUM-ROR	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Tourism jump seen from Japan's longer 'Golden Week'

HONOLULU (AP)—The tourism industry in Hawaii is anticipating a boost from a stretch of Japanese holidays known as "Golden Week" that has been extended this year.

The four national holidays typically held over seven days are a popular time for Japanese tourists to visit Hawaii, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported.

This year the holiday period has been extended to 10 days between April 27 and May 6 because of a change in the Japanese royal family. Emperor Akihito is scheduled to abdicate the throne on April 30 in favor of Crown Prince Naruhito, who will replace his father on May 1.

Hiroyuki "Keith" Kitagawa, the CEO of JTB Hawaii Inc., Hawaii's largest destination management organization, said he expects nearly 40 percent more Golden Week visitors this year. About 8,700 travelers have already booked trips.

The extra three days make it more convenient for Japanese workers to go on vacation, especially on long-haul trips, Kitagawa said.

Eric Takahata, managing director of Hawaii Tourism Japan, said some travelers have paid as much as $5,000 for one economy class airline seat. Most travelers are paying at least a 30 to 40 percent premium, he said.

Last year, the number of Japanese visitors to Hawaii dropped 1 percent to 1.59 million.

The four-month eruption of Kilauea Volcano, which temporarily closed much of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island, deterred travelers, as did Hurricanes Lane and Olivia.

Typhoon Jebi, which struck Japan on Sept. 4, caused cancelled flights and the closure of Kansai International Airport in Osaka for almost two weeks.

Nextlaw network wins once more at 2019 Lawyer European Awards

Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC said Friday that its legal network, Nextlaw Referral Network, the largest legal network in the world, has won Global Network of the Year at *The Lawyer* European Awards 2019.

This is the second year in a row NRN has won a top award at *The Lawyer* European Awards, having won Global Strategic Initiative of the Year in 2018.

Founded and launched in 2016, NRN pioneered the principle that in order to truly put clients first, a network should include as many high-quality firms as possible, regardless of size or jurisdiction. NRN charges no annual fees and does not offer jurisdictional exclusivity.

One month ago, NRN was also ranked by Chambers as one of the top networks in the world.

Jeff Modisett, Nextlaw Referral Network CEO said, "NRN knows the law firm of the future will not just solve legal problems, but will solve business problems, identify technological opportunities, and address regulatory questions and it is the power of our network that enables to accomplish all of the above."

Sean Frink, MLSG partner, said, "NRN is one of the few networks in the world that truly put clients' needs first and we are glad to be an integral part of this award-winning network. We're proud that NRN is being recognized by our profession and peers for directly benefitting our clients and helping us provide the highest quality work."

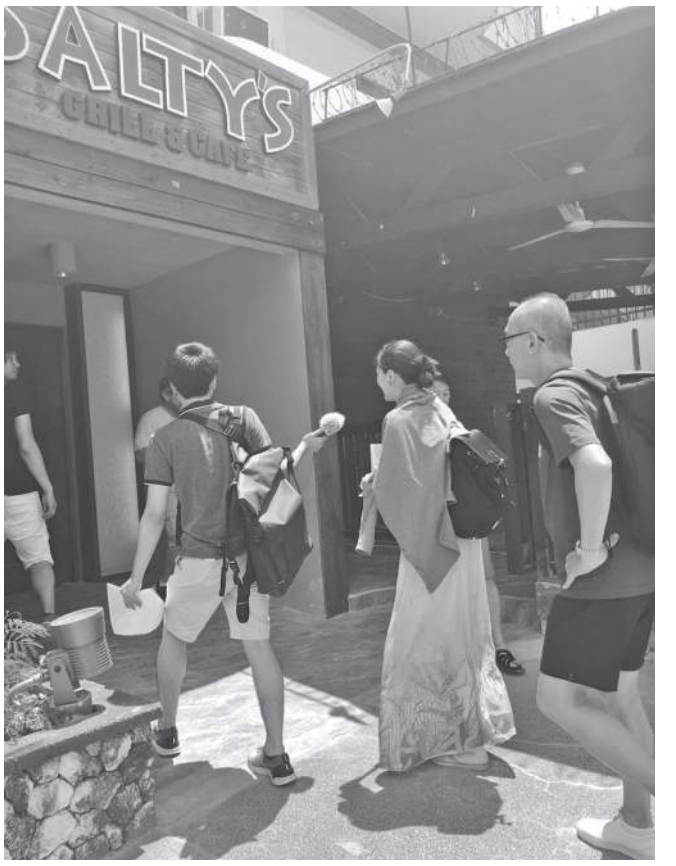
MLSG is a law firm based on Saipan. Visit www.mlsg.law.

NRN, a legal referral platform, includes over 670-member firms, over 25,000 lawyers in more than 205 countries. It was introduced in October of 2016. ***(PR)***

Nature tour brings Japan radio fans to Marianas

Japanese visitors clean Tanapag Beach on Saipan on March 15, 2019. The group travelled to the Marianas on a thankfulness-themed tour celebrating FM NACK5 radio's 30th anniversary. MVA

Japan's FM NACK5 tapes the program "GOGOMONZ Saipan Special" at the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture on March 15, 2019. The radio station invited 82 listeners to the Marianas to celebrate the station's 30th anniversary. MVA



Japan's FM NACK5 tapes the program "GOGOMONZ Saipan Special" at Salty's Grill & Café on March 15, 2019. MVA

Japanese visitors clean Tanapag Beach on Saipan on March 15, 2019. MVA

Dozens of fans of Japan's FM Nack5 radio station based in Tokyo spent three days in the Marianas earlier this month, celebrating the station's 30th anniversary and contributing to environmental protection on the islands.

The "Breath of the Earth for Saipan" tour invited 82 listeners to the celebration on Saipan.

"In commemoration of this anniversary and on the theme of 'thankfulness,' we planned this tour to provide opportunities for our radio program listeners to protect and touch beautiful nature," said project leader and executive director Akira Muto of FM NACK5. "In cooperation [with] the Marianas Visitors Authority, we decided to carry out this project [o]n Saipan, which has a beautiful ocean and nature."

The tour included visits to scenic and historic sites including the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, Bird Island Lookout, Banzai Cliff, and Last Command Post.

"The FMNack 5 group tour was originally scheduled for last year, and they initially planned to cancel it after Super Typhoon Yutu. Fortunately, Saipan recovered quicker than expected from the storm and has proven to still be a safe and beautiful place to enjoy a holiday," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are grateful for them choosing to reschedule to this month and even happier to hear that they enjoyed their visit to the Marianas. We are looking forward to even more group tours from Japan with the start of direct flights by Skymark Airlines on March 22. " The group also enjoyed a full day of unscheduled leisure and conducted a beach cleanup at Tanapag Beach in northern Saipan.

"It was very disappointing at first to postpone this tour, but now I'm very relieved because all our listeners could see a green-covered Saipan again and the local people who overcame this natural disaster," Muto said. ""I had many chances to see beautiful beaches on Saipan during this tour, and now I strongly feel that we should take care of this environment, one precious earth for the future of our people. I hope if our clean-up activity at Tanapag Beach was meaningful for our radio listeners and the people on Saipan. The sea is an important asset that everyone needs to take care of. Along with other Japanese tourists, I look forward to the return of direct flights from Japan to Saipan."

Nack5 FM also recorded at the museum, award-winning Managaha, and Salty's Grill & Cafe for broadcasts that will air to their listeners on March 25-28, 2019, in a program called "GOGOMONZ Saipan Special." Nack5 FM broadcasts Japanese and international rock, as well as other modern genres of music.

Participants lodged at Hyatt Regency Saipan, which also hosted a farewell dinner, and their tour and beach cleanup was coordinated by Paupau Tours. ***(MVA)***

Over 80 listeners of Japan's FM Nack5 celebrate the radio station's anniversary with a tour of Saipan on March 15, 2019. MVA

Breadfruit is more than just a fruit

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension Education Service recently partnered with the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Office of Grants Management, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and other agencies on a workshop that focused on the nutritional and economic benefits of the *ma'afala* breadfruit.

Other contributing sponsors of the breadfruit workshops include Agroforestry Net, Bank of Guam, Global Biodiversity Heritage Council, Hawaii Homegrown Food Network, Ho'oulu ka 'Ulu, Olohana Foundation, Permanent Agriculture Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Western Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education.

For more information about the breadfruit workshop, please call 237-6740 or visit crees.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Guest speaker Dr. Craig Elevitch, director of Agroforestry Net, from Hawaii shared suggested efforts to revitalize breadfruit in the CNMI. Participants of the workshop included interested college students, local farmers, and community agencies PHOTOS BY NMC

Team members from the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service pose for a group photo with panel speaker Marie Coleman at recent Breadfruit Workshop.

Participants engage in tabletop discussions focused on the *ma'afala* breadfruit at the recently held Breadfruit Workshop.

During the recent Breadfruit Workshop, Shirley Kauhaihao from Hawaii shared her favorite Hawaiian recipes using the *ma'afala* breadfruit.

During the recent Breadfruit Workshop, participants were engaged in food demonstrations that incorporate the *ma'afala* breadfruit variety.

Ed Sablan, left, Francis Sablan, center, and Chailang Palacios, right, pose for a group photo after the first day of the recent Breadfruit Workshop.

In the photo are Dr. Craig Elevitch, standing left, and Lawerence Duponcheel, standing right, discussing agroforestry development with local farmers and community partners during the second day of the Breadfruit Workshop. The second day of the workshop was held at the NMC CREES Agriculture Experiment Station.

During the second day of the recent Breadfruit Workshop, participants experienced an aboveground cooking method using taro, sweet potatoes, and other locally grown produce. The second day of the workshop was held at the NMC-CREES Agriculture Experiment Station.

Panel speaker Marie Coleman shared with the participants of the recent Breadfruit Workshop tips on how to sustain the *ma'afala* breadfruit variety in the CNMI. After Super Typhoon Yutu, with many breadfruit trees severely damaged or destroyed, Coleman shared her success in preserving the *ma'afala* breadfruit tree with the workshop participants.

For the second day of the Breadfruit Workshop, farmers and community partners were invited to the NMC CREES Agriculture Experiment Station for an in-depth discussion on agroforestry development in the CNMI.

Business

UK faces new Brexit crisis after lawmakers reject May's deal

LONDON (AP)—British lawmakers on Friday rejected the government's Brexit deal for a third time, leaving the U.K. facing the stark prospect of a chaotic departure from the European Union in just two weeks, with political leaders in turmoil and the country ill-prepared for the shock.

It's either that, or a long delay to the country's exit from the EU. The alternatives are dwindling.

The House of Commons voted 344-286 against the withdrawal agreement struck between Prime Minister Theresa May and the EU, rebuffing her plea to "put aside self and party" and deliver the Brexit that Britons voted for.

Amid business warnings that a no-deal Brexit could mean crippling tariffs, border gridlock and shortages of goods, a visibly frustrated May said the vote had "grave" implications.

"The legal default now is that the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union on 12 April — in just 14 days' time," she said. "This is not enough time to agree, legislate for and ratify a deal, and yet the House has been clear it will not permit leaving without a deal. And so we will have to agree an alternative way forward."

Had the deal been passed, Britain would have left the EU on May 22.

The bloc said the rejection of the divorce terms made a no-deal Brexit "a likely scenario" and called an emergency summit of EU leaders for April 10 to decide what to do next.

An EU Commission official said the 27 remaining EU nations were "fully prepared for a no-deal scenario at midnight 12th of April."

Almost three years after Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, and two years after it set its departure date for March 29, 2019, British politicians remain deadlocked over Brexit. Like the country as a whole, they are split between those who want a clean break, those who want to retain close ties with the bloc, and those who want to overturn the decision to leave.

Last week, to prevent Britain from crashing out, the EU granted an extension to May 22 if the divorce deal was approved by Friday — or to April 12 if it was rejected.

Friday's 58-vote margin of defeat for the deal was narrower than previous votes in January and March, but it still left the government's blueprint for exiting the bloc in tatters.

May's deal was voted down even after the prime minister sacrificed her job in exchange for Brexit, promising to quit if lawmakers approved the agreement. With the deal's rejection, she will face pressure to step aside and let a new Conservative Party leader take over negotiations with the EU.

The government had also warned pro-Brexit politicians that rejecting May's deal could see Britain's departure from the EU delayed indefinitely.

May's arguments moved some previously resistant Brexit-backers to support the deal. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson — a likely contender to replace May as Conservative leader — tweeted that rejecting it risked "being forced to accept an even worse version of Brexit or losing Brexit altogether."

But May's key allies, the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, refused to back the agreement because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K.

Parliament voted on the legally binding, 585-page withdrawal agreement that May struck with the EU late last year, setting out the terms of Britain's departure — but not on a shorter declaration on future ties that was also part of the accord between the two sides.

Removing the political declaration altered the deal enough to overcome a parliamentary ban against asking lawmakers the same question over and over again.

May also hoped severing the link between the two parts of the deal would blunt opposition. That gamble failed to pay off, as opposition lawmakers said if amounted to voting for a "blind Brexit" with no idea what would happen next.

AP

Aoife McGenity joins the border Brexit protest on the Irish border, on the Old Dublin Road, in Carrickcarnon, Ireland, Saturday, March 30, 2019.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook says it removed fake accounts in PH

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook says it has removed 200 pages, groups and accounts linked to Nic Gabunada, reportedly the former social media manager of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, for misleading people. The social network says it took down the accounts for "coordinated inauthentic behavior," the term it uses to describe accounts that work together to mask who is behind them and what their purpose is. In the past, Facebook has removed accounts linked to Russia, Iran and other countries for trying to wreak political havoc or influence elections in the U.S. and elsewhere. The accounts and posts in question posted about elections, alleged misconduct by political candidates and local news. Facebook says they tried to hide their identity but were linked to a network organized by Gabunada.

Drugmaker sues after Virginia port shipment falls in river

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A New Jersey-based drug manufacturer has filed a federal lawsuit after its shipment at a Hampton Roads port fell into the Elizabeth River. The Virginian-Pilot reported Saturday that the newly filed lawsuit stems from a July mishap in which eight large containers toppled like dominoes into the river while berthed at the Norfolk International Terminals, the largest facility in the Port of Virginia. The drugmaker, Heritage Pharmaceuticals of East Brunswick, New Jersey, says that 562 packages of drugs worth $200,000 were destroyed when the refrigerated container plunged into the river. Among those being sued is Virginia International Terminals, a private subsidiary that operates the Virginia Port Authority's facilities. A port spokesman told the Virginian-Pilot that the port does not comment on pending litigation.

Report: Trump's Federal Reserve pick rebuked over alimony

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump's pick for the Federal Reserve Board was found in contempt of court for failing to pay $300,000 in alimony and other payments related to a divorce, according to a report by The Guardian. Stephen Moore was reprimanded by a judge in November 2012 for not paying Allison Moore spousal support, child support and other money owed, the Guardian reported, citing Virginia court records. The judge ordered Moore to sell his house to satisfy the debt in 2013. But that was halted by his ex-wife after Moore paid her about two-thirds of what he owed. Moore is a former Trump campaign adviser who helped design the 2017 tax cuts and the co-authored "Trumponomics." He did not respond to a request for comment.

Judge restores Obama-era drilling ban in Arctic

President Donald Trump exceeded his authority when he reversed bans on offshore drilling in vast parts of the Arctic Ocean and dozens of canyons in the Atlantic Ocean, a U.S. judge said in a ruling that restored the Obama-era restrictions.

U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason in a decision late Friday threw out Trump's executive order that overturned the bans that comprised a key part of Obama's environmental legacy.

Presidents have the power under a federal law to remove certain lands from development but cannot revoke those removals, Gleason said.

"The wording of President Obama's 2015 and 2016 withdrawals indicates that he intended them to extend indefinitely, and therefore be revocable only by an act of Congress," said Gleason, who was nominated to the bench by Obama.

A Department of Justice spokesman, Jeremy Edwards, declined comment Saturday.

The American Petroleum Institute, a defendant in the case, disagreed with the ruling.

"In addition to bringing supplies of affordable energy to consumers for decades to come, developing our abundant offshore resources can provide billions in government revenue, create thousands of jobs and will also strengthen our national security," it said in a statement.

Erik Grafe, an attorney with Earthjustice, welcomed the ruling, saying it "shows that the president cannot just trample on the Constitution to do the bidding of his cronies in the fossil fuel industry at the expense of our oceans, wildlife and climate."

Earthjustice represented numerous environmental groups that sued the Trump administration over the April 2017 executive order reversing the drilling bans. At issue in the case was the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

Acting Assistant U.S. Attorney General Jeffrey Wood said during a hearing before Gleason in November that environmental groups were misinterpreting the intent of the law written in 1953. He said it is meant to be flexible and sensible and not intended to bind one president with decisions made by another when determining offshore stewardship as needs and realities change over time.

In 2015, Obama halted exploration in coastal areas of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and the Hanna Shoal, an important area for walrus. In late 2016, he withdrew most other potential Arctic Ocean lease areas—about 98 percent of the Arctic outer continental shelf.

The bans were intended to protect polar bears, walruses, ice seals and Alaska Native villages that depend on the animals.

In the Atlantic, Obama banned exploration in 5,937 square miles (15,377 square kilometers) of underwater canyon complexes, citing their importance for marine mammals, deep-water corals, valuable fish populations and migratory whales. ***(AP)***

Nation

US struggling with growing number of asylum seekers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Border officials are aiming to more than quadruple the number of asylum seekers sent back over the southern border each day, a major expansion of a top government effort to address the swelling number of Central Americans arriving in the country, a Trump administration official said Saturday.

It was the latest attempt to ease a straining immigration system that officials say is at the breaking point. Hundreds of officers who usually screen cargo and vehicles at ports of entry were reassigned to help manage migrants. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen asked for volunteers from non-immigration agencies within her department, sent a letter to Congress late this past week requesting resources and broader authority to deport families faster, and she met with Central American and Mexican officials.

The efforts are being made while President Donald Trump is doubling down on threats to shutter the U.S.-Mexico border entirely, a move that would have serious economic repercussions for both the U.S. and Mexico but wouldn't stop migrants from crossing between ports. His administration also announced it was cutting aid to the Central American countries home to most of the migrants.

Right now, about 60 asylum seekers a day are returned to Mexico at the San Ysidro, Calexico and El Paso ports to wait out their cases, the official said. They are allowed to return to the U.S. for court dates. The plan was announced Jan. 29, partially to deter false claimants from coming across the border. With a backlog of more than 700,000 immigration cases, asylum seekers can wait years for their cases to progress, and officials say some people game the system in order to live in the U.S.

Officials hope to have as many as 300 people returned per day by the end of the week, focusing particularly on those who come in between ports of entry, said the official, who had knowledge of the plans but was unauthorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

But the process so far has been slow-going, and such a sizeable increase may be difficult to achieve. The plan has already been marred by confusion, scheduling glitches and an inability by some attorneys to reach their clients. In San Ysidro alone, Mexico had been prepared to accept up to 120 asylum seekers per week, but for the first six weeks only 40 people per week were returned.

Plus, U.S. officials must check if asylum seekers have any felony convictions and notify Mexico at least 12 hours before they are returned. Those who cross illegally must have come as single adults, though the administration is in talks with the Mexican government to include families. Children are not returned.

Homeland Security officials have been grappling with an ever-growing number of Central American children and families coming over the border. Arrests soared in February to a 12-year-high and more than half of those stopped arrived as families, many of them asylum seekers who generally turn themselves in instead of trying to elude capture. Guatemala and Honduras have replaced Mexico as the top countries, a remarkable shift from only a few years ago. Migrants from Central America cannot be easily deported, unlike people crossing from Mexico.

AP

A person crosses the street at a U.S Mexico border crossing in El Paso, Texas, Friday, March 29, 2019.

Manhattan tolls, plastic bag ban poised for approval in NY

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New tolls to drive into parts of Manhattan and a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags are two of the biggest proposals poised for approval as New York state lawmakers work to pass a new state budget before a Monday deadline.

Other measures expected to be included in the $175 billion spending plan include a tax on the sale of luxury second homes in Manhattan, increased funding for schools and the repeal of a state law making it illegal to compensate a woman for carrying the child of another person.

"We're at the finish line. We are working hard to get an on-time budget with New York's priorities," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a Democrat from Yonkers.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, released a statement Saturday evening saying the final remaining issue under debate was the public financing of campaigns. The governor has insisted that some type of public financing program be included in the budget as a way to reduce the role of money in politics. But he said lawmakers have yet to agree.

"New Yorkers are watching and will now know whether their elected officials are truly progressive or great pretenders," he said in the statement.

Members of the Senate and Assembly were meeting behind closed doors in the Capitol Saturday to review the final details of the budget before they planned to vote on the plan Sunday, hours before the start of the new state fiscal year.

While Cuomo had wanted a recreational marijuana legalization provision included, disputes over the details of regulations kept it out of the budget. Lawmakers now say they'll likely take up the measure after the budget and before they adjourn for the year in June.

"That is going to take more time to work out," Cuomo told reporters Friday night at a Capitol press conference.

A look at other top issues in the budget as lawmakers look to wrap up their work on the legislation this weekend:

MANHATTAN TOLLS: Cuomo and the leaders of the Democrat-controlled Assembly and Senate say the budget will include a plan for new tolls on motorists driving into Manhattan south of 61st Street. The toll is intended to reduce gridlock by encouraging transit use. Revenue will support improvements to New York City's aging subway system, though some of the money is expected to go to regional commuter rail systems.

Actual toll amounts have not been set but earlier estimates suggest it could be nearly $12 for personal vehicles. Lawmakers say they want to include discounts for commuters who already pay bridge or tunnel tolls to reach Manhattan.

PLASTIC BAG BAN: By this time next year, grocery stores and other retailers will have stopped providing single-use plastic bags for most purchases. Exemptions for the ban set to take effect March 1, 2020, include bags for: uncooked meat, fish or poultry; sliced or prepared foods; delivered newspapers; prescription drugs; trash bags; food-storage bags; garment bags, and bags for restaurant carryout orders. Counties will be allowed to opt for a 5-cent charge for paper bags, with 3 cents going to the state's Environmental Protection Fund and 2 cents kept by local governments.

LUXURY HOME TAX: There's broad agreement on a proposal to tax the transfer of luxury second homes in Manhattan worth more than $5 million. Revenue from the tax would support New York City transit.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: A proposal to eliminate cash bail for all criminal defendants is a priority for many Democratic lawmakers, but disagreements persist about whether cash bail should remain an option for defendants accused of violent felonies.

PRISON CLOSURES: Up to three state prisons will be closed, Cuomo told reporters at a Capitol press conference Friday night. Which of the state's 54 prisons will be shut down is to be determined by the Cuomo administration, which has closed several correctional facilities in recent years. Elected officials in communities where prisons are located and the corrections officers union oppose the closures.

ACROSS THE NATION

Migrant families overwhelm San Antonio bus stop, shelters

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The surge of migrant families crossing the southern border is overwhelming a bus station and aid organizations in San Antonio. The San Antonio Express-News reports city shelters have run out of space for the hundreds of people U.S. authorities are releasing from family detention centers around the city and on the border. The influx of people to San Antonio and other cities comes after U.S. officials announced so many families and children are entering the country from Mexico that they will be immediately released instead of transferred to immigration officers. Border agents are on track to make 100,000 arrests and denials of entry at the southern border this month. A San Antonio aid worker, Sister Denise LaRock, told the Express-News local nonprofits lack the infrastructure to help everyone.

12-foot, 750-pound gator trapped in Florida

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—A massive gator weighing over 700 pounds (318 kilograms) and measuring nearly 12 feet (4 meters) long has been caught in South Florida. A spokeswoman for Jupiter Police says a trapper caught the unusually large gator near an office park Thursday after a business owner reported it. The reptile weighed nearly 750 pounds (340 kilograms) and is being taken to a gator farm in central Florida. The department posted pictures of officers wrangling with the gator. Photos of the reptile have been shared more than 800 times. The Sun Sentinel reports alligators are especially active in South Florida during warm weather. Their mating season runs from April through June.

Police accuse Wisconsin man of starving cows on family farm

NORRIE, Wis. (AP)—A 19-year-old central Wisconsin man has been charged with intentionally starving cows on his family's farm. The Wausau Daily Herald reports prosecutors charged Joshua Litze Friday with two counts of intentionally failing to provide food to animals, four counts of failing to timely dispose of an animal carcass and one count of bail jumping. The complaint says a Marathon County sheriff's deputy responded to a report of cattle in the road near a farm in Norrie, about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) east of Wausau. The officer found cows with bones protruding from their sides and at least four carcasses of dead cows. Authorities say Litzke was supposed to be taking care of nearly 30 cows while his father was out of town. It wasn't clear if Litzke has a lawyer.

Asia

Journalist critical of Philippine leader arrested again

AP
Rappler CEO and Executive Editor Maria Ressa, center, gestures as she talks to reporters after posting bail at the Pasig Regional Trial Court, metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Friday March 29, 2019.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The head of a Philippine online news site that has been critical of President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested Friday for the second time in two months, this time over a ban on foreign ownership of news media.

Police served an arrest warrant to Rappler Inc. CEO and executive editor Maria Ressa after she arrived at Manila's airport, and she later posted bail at a regional trial court.

Ressa's co-defendants had posted bail for the new charge earlier in the week. Ressa, who was one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year last year, was returning from a trip to the U.S. after securing a travel bond allowing her to leave the country while other criminal cases against her are pending.

"Every action takes us farther into a descent into tyranny," Ressa told reporters outside the court in suburban Pasig city. "This is the weaponization of the law."

Ressa and some media watchdogs said the latest government move was an attempt to muzzle independent media and other critics of Duterte, particularly over his deadly crackdown against illegal drugs.

The Duterte administration has denied her cases are a press freedom issue, saying she and Rappler have breached laws and should answer before the judicial system like other violators.

The charges stem from a complaint by the National Bureau of Investigation that Rappler allowed a foreign investor, U.S.-based Omidyar Network, to inject funds in the media organization.

The Philippine Constitution bans foreign ownership of news media, but Rappler has argued that it did not grant Omidyar the power to control or influence its news operations.

The country's Securities and Exchange Commission has revoked the site's license over what it ruled was a breach of the ban on foreign ownership and control of media outlets. Ressa is facing separate complaints for allegedly violating tax laws in connection with the foreign funds that Rappler received.

Omidyar has since donated its investment in Rappler to its key editors and staff, so an appeals court has ordered the SEC to examine if that warrants a reassessment of the license revocation.

Omidyar, established by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar, calls itself a "philanthropic investment firm" which supports entrepreneurs and their visionary ideas to create opportunities for people to improve their lives and communities.

Rappler is one of several local and international news agencies deemed critical of Duterte's policies. Since taking office in 2016, Duterte has openly lambasted journalists who write unfavorable stories about him. He has particularly bristled at critical coverage of his anti-drug campaign, which has left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead and drawn international condemnation.

Ressa was arrested last month and freed on bail in a libel complaint filed by a businessman who accused Rappler of linking him to illegal drugs, human trafficking and murder in a report without getting his side.

In its selection of Ressa as a Person of the Year, Time magazine cited her and several other journalists as "guardians" in what it said was an effort to emphasize the importance of reporters' work in an increasingly hostile world.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai king strips fugitive ex-PM Thaksin of royal decorations

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's king has stripped fugitive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of his royal decorations, citing his 2008 flight to escape serving a two-year prison term on a conflict of interest conviction and other legal cases against him. Thai media reported that the royal command from King Maha Vajiralongkorn was published Saturday in the Royal Gazette. The move follows a March 24 general election in which a party loyal to Thaksin claimed it won enough seats to form a coalition that would hold a majority in the House of Representatives. Final certified results will not be issued until May 9, and the Election Commission has warned there could be some disqualifications by then. Last week, a military award Thaksin has been given was revoked by the army, with the explanation that he failed to deserve the honor. Vajiralongkorn on election eve had issued a statement urging voters to select "good people" for public office, a message taken as implicit support for Thaksin's opponents, mainly the military-backed Palang Pracharath Party, which won the highest number of popular votes. Thaksin, a billionaire with populist policies, became prime minister in 2001 but was ousted by a 2006 military coup. Abuse of power and disrespect for the monarchy were two of the accusations that were offered as justification for the coup.

Philippine police kill 14 men rights groups say were farmers

BACOLOD, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say 14 suspected communist rebels have been killed after they opened fire during raids but rights groups countered the men were farmers and the latest victim of extrajudicial killings. Regional police chief Debold Sinas says police backed by army troops were to conduct court-authorized home searches Saturday in three towns in Negros Oriental province when the 14 violently fought back. Fifteen others were arrested while six escaped in the anti-insurgency and criminality sweep. Human rights and farmers' groups on Sunday condemned the killings of the men they said were farmers, including two village chiefs, and called for an independent investigation. They say six farmers were killed and more than 50 others arrested in similar police raids in December in the central region.

Proposed Hong Kong extradition law changes spark concerns

HONG KONG (AP)—Business and human rights groups are expressing concern over proposed changes to Hong Kong's extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China where they could be subject to torture and unfair prosecution. They say the move would harm the Asian financial hub's attractiveness to international business. Hong Kong currently limits such extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before the semi-autonomous territory's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights. However, changes to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance would expand the scope for the transfer of criminal suspects to China and remove the legislature's right to scrutinize individual extradition decisions filed by Hong Kong's chief executive.

S. Korean leader to meet with Trump in US on nuke diplomacy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in will travel to the United States in two weeks for a summit with President Donald Trump on stalemated North Korean nuclear diplomacy.

It would be their first meeting since Trump's second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi last month collapsed due to disputes on U.S.-led sanctions. The breakdown of that summit put Moon, a liberal who has shuttled between Washington and Pyongyang, in a difficult position on how to further engage North Korea and facilitate the nuclear diplomacy.

Moon's office said Moon will visit the United States on April 10-11 to discuss how to strengthen their countries' alliance and achieve North Korea's complete denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The White House said Trump and first lady Melania Trump will welcome Moon and his wife Kim Jung-sook to the White House on April 11. It said in a statement the alliance between the U.S. and South Korea "remains the linchpin of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region."

Earlier this month, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui threatened to pull out of the nuclear negotiations with the United States citing a lack of its corresponding steps to match some disarmament measures North Korea took last year. She said Kim would soon decide whether to continue the talks and his moratorium on nuclear and missile tests.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers in a private briefing Friday that North Korea has nearly completed its work to restore a long-range rocket launch facility that it had partially dismantled last year at the beginning of the nuclear diplomacy, according to Kim Min-ki, one of the lawmakers who attended the meeting.

The lawmaker also cited the National Intelligence Service as saying the North's uranium-enrichment facility at its main nuclear complex remains operational. The NIS said it doesn't comment on intelligence assessments provided to lawmakers.

Citing analyses of commercial satellite imagery, many civilian experts in the U.S. have previously given similar assessments on the North's Tongchang-ri launch facility and the Yongbyon nuclear complex. But there have been no reports that North Korea is preparing for a long-range rocket launch or a nuclear test anytime soon.

Moon's push to expand ties with North Korea and resume dormant inter-Korean economic projects is in doubt as U.S. officials maintain that sanctions on North Korea would stay in place unless the country takes significant denuclearization steps.

North Korea recently withdrew its entire staff at a frontline liaison office with South Korea before sending some of them back to the office. Seoul's Defense Ministry said Friday that North Korea hasn't responded to its offer 11 days ago to hold military talks to discuss planned joint searches for Korean War dead at their border area.

Also Friday, South Korea received the first two of the 40 F-35A fighter jets that it has agreed to buy from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The F-35A jets that arrived at an airport in southern South Korea have become the country's first stealth fighter jets. North Korea has previously called the introduction of F-35A aircraft a plot by Seoul to attack North Korea.

World

Mozambique says cholera cases up to 271 in cyclone-hit city

BEIRA, Mozambique (AP)—Cholera cases among cyclone survivors in Mozambique have jumped to 271, authorities said, a figure that nearly doubled from the previous day.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa cited national health director Ussein Isse, who declared the outbreak of the acute diarrheal disease on Wednesday with just five cases.

So far no cholera deaths have been confirmed, the report said. Another Lusa report said the death toll in central Mozambique from the cyclone that hit on March 14 had inched up to 501. Authorities have warned the toll is highly preliminary as flood waters recede and reveal more bodies.

The cholera cases have been discovered in the port city of Beira, whose half-million residents and especially those in crowded, poor neighborhoods are at particular risk.

AP
A woman diagnosed with cholera lies on a bed at a treatment centre in Beira, Mozambique, Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Children and other patients curled up on bare beds at a treatment center in Beira on Saturday, some with anxious parents by their side. They had intravenous drips to help replace fluids.

Doctors Without Borders has said it is seeing some 200 likely cholera cases per day in the city, where relief workers are hurrying to restore the damaged water system and bring in additional medical assistance.

The World Health Organization has said some 900,000 cholera vaccine doses are expected to arrive on Monday, with a vaccination campaign starting later in the week.

Cholera is spread by contaminated food and water and can kill within hours if not treated. The disease is a major concern for the hundreds of thousands of cyclone survivors in the southern African nation now living in squalid conditions in camps, schools or damaged homes. Some drink from contaminated wells or filthy, stagnant water.

As health responders stress the need for better disease surveillance, the United Nations' deputy humanitarian coordinator in Mozambique, Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, has said all cases of diarrhea are being treated as though they are cholera.

Cholera is endemic to the region, and "it breaks out fast and it travels extremely fast," he told reporters on Friday.

Doctors Without Borders has said other suspected cholera cases have been reported outside Beira in the badly hit areas of Buzi, Tica and Nhamathanda but the chance of spread in rural areas is smaller because people are more dispersed.

Mozambican officials have said Cyclone Idai destroyed more than 50 health centers in the region, complicating response efforts.

The cyclone also killed at least 259 people in Zimbabwe and 56 in Malawi.

The United Nations has said some 1.8 million people need urgent help across the sodden, largely rural region.

Rockets from Gaza Strip hit Israel; 4 die at border protest

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Militants fired five rockets from Gaza into Israel early Sunday, the Israeli military said, following a day of Palestinian mass protests along the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence. Four Palestinians, including three teen-agers, were shot dead and dozens were wounded by Israeli soldiers.

The rocket fire threatened to undermine Egyptian-mediated efforts to cement a deal that the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers hope will ease a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the crowded territory.

No casualties were reported from the rockets and no Palestinian group claimed responsibility.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians rallied in the Gaza Strip on Saturday to mark the anniversary of their mass protests along the Israeli border.

Most demonstrators kept their distance from the border, though small crowds of activists approached the perimeter fence and threw stones and explosives toward Israeli troops on the other side. The forces fired tear gas and opened fire, killing four Palestinians and wounding 64.

Hamas had pledged to keep the crowds a safe distance from the fence to avoid inflaming the political atmosphere during negotiations of a possible easing of the blockade.

Hamas officials say that Israel is offering a package of economic incentives in exchange for calm along the volatile border.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said the group had received "positive signs" from the Egyptians. He added that the Egyptian team was to return to Israel on Sunday to continue the talks. "We will continue our marches until all our goals are achieved," he said.

Saturday's protest came at a sensitive time, with Israel and Hamas, bitter enemies that have fought three wars and dozens of smaller skirmishes, both having a strong interest in keeping things quiet.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking his fourth consecutive term in April 9 elections, but is facing a serious challenge from a group of ex-army chiefs who have criticized what they say is his failed Gaza policy. With a lack of alternatives, Netanyahu has been forced at times to rely on Hamas to maintain stability along Israel's volatile southern front.

In the final stretch of the campaign, Netanyahu needs to keep the Israel-Gaza frontier quiet, without seeming to make concessions to Hamas. Netanyahu took heavy criticism this week for what was seen as a soft response to renewed rocket fire out of Gaza.

Hamas, meanwhile, faces growing unrest in Gaza as a result of worsening conditions after more than a decade of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade. The two countries imposed the blockade in 2007 after Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority.

The blockade has helped drive unemployment over 50 percent, led to chronic power outages and made it extremely difficult for Gazans to travel out of the territory.

Earlier this month, Hamas violently suppressed several days of public protests, staged under the slogan "We want to live," over the dire conditions.

Speaking on the group's Al-Aqsa TV station, Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehya Sinwar, praised the protesters. "With this big turnout, our people say, 'We want to live!"

His use of the protesters' slogan appeared to be aimed at diverting the recent criticism of his group. Hamas blames the blockade and punitive measures by its West Bank-based Palestinian Authority for worsening the living conditions.

The fence protests, which began exactly a year ago, have been aimed in large part at breaking the Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza, but haven't delivered major improvements.

Red Cross ready to aid Venezuela, warns against politics

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Friday that it is poised to deliver aid to Venezuela, warning that it will not accept any interference from President Nicolas Maduro or opposition leader Juan Guaido.

Federation president Francesco Rocca said at a news conference in the capital of Caracas that the humanitarian network can start distributing assistance to an estimated 650,000 people in the South American country in around 15 days.

The Red Cross "can never accept interference from other actors," Rocca added, saying that Venezuela was a deeply polarized country and it was vital that no one take advantage of the aid.

On Twitter, however, Guaido almost immediately claimed credit for the effort, saying the announcement amounted to a victory for "our struggle."

He also said medical aid would be coming into Venezuela in a matter of days, reiterating a promise that he was forced to renege on in February after security forces blocked U.S.-backed assistance from entering the country and clashed with protesters.

Guaido said Venezuelans should stay vigilant to make sure incoming aid is not diverted for "corrupt" purposes, but did not expound on the logistics of aid shipments nor say whether any agreement had been made with Maduro to let them in.

The leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly has previously rejected the idea of negotiations with Maduro, saying his embattled adversary must resign immediately so that elections can be held.

Early Friday evening, pro-Maduro demonstrators tried to block Guaido as he arrived in a vehicle to address a crowd in a Caracas neighborhood. Police, who in the past have cracked down on opposition gatherings, set off a tear gas canister to disperse the government supporters and formed a line to separate the two groups.

Maduro, who has previously denied that Venezuela was suffering a humanitarian crisis, did not immediately comment on the Red Cross initiative.

A Chinese plane, meanwhile, arrived at the country's main airport, carrying what Venezuelan officials said was a 65-ton cargo of medical supplies. The plane was positioned near a plane that had brought Russian military personnel to Venezuela last weekend. The scene, and the timing of the aid arrival, projected symbolism for Maduro's government, which counts China and Russia among its allies but has been urged to give up power by the United States and dozens of other countries.

The latest announcement comes as dire conditions in Venezuela force millions to leave the country and make lives elsewhere. Many who have stayed behind struggle to afford supplies of food and medicine, while nationwide power outages this month have exacerbated widespread misery.

A new blackout struck Venezuela Friday evening, plunging much of the nation again into darkness. Netblocks, a non-government group based in Europe that monitors internet censorship, said the latest outage left just 10 percent of Venezuela's telecommunications infrastructure online.

Health & Wellness

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QUINN ON NUTRITION

Weigh in on high protein diets

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

Do high protein diets work? Are they good for us? Current research suggests that a diet higher in protein may be an effective way to lose weight, according to an article on this topic by registered dietitian Kaley Todd in Today's Dietitian. Compared to lower protein diets, a boost of protein can help a dieter preserve muscle mass and perhaps even control hunger.

Other research however, has shown that high protein diets don't result in long term weight loss any better than other diets. Why the confusion? Probably because the definition of a high protein diet is all over the map.

The most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans advise us to eat between 10 percent to 35 percent of our total calories from protein. More than that is technically "high protein."

Yet many of the research studies that found a beneficial effect of high protein diets for weight loss defined a high protein diet as one that was around 30 percent protein.

And here's another important note from most of the research studies that found positive effects of high protein diets. Besides the fact that these diets were high but not excessively high in protein, they were also not excessively high in fat. Most came in at around 30 percent of calories from the fat group—what experts consider to be low fat.

It's essential then, says Todd, to consider how the protein we eat is "packaged." If our concept of a high protein diet is all the sausage and gravy and everything else our poor heart doesn't desire, we might be missing the point. High protein diets that give free rein to as much fat as we can pile on and severely limit our intake of healthful carbs like fruit, yogurt, and whole grains are another story entirely.

What in the heck does all this mean? For most people, a diet that provides protein on the higher end of the normal scale and cuts out unnecessary carbs, especially those that are high in sugar and fat (donuts, anyone?) can be a healthful way to lose weight … and keep it off. And we still need to make sure our bodies get all the essential nutrients they need for optimal function.

How to know if your diet falls in line with what's considered healthful? Plug in a day's worth of eating and drinking (be honest) at www.supertracker.usda.gov. Then run the Nutrient Report. You might be surprised.

Recent studies also suggest that—because we have different genetics—some of us may respond more favorable to high protein diets than others. Best to remember what my grandfather told me; "Too much of anything is not good for us."

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Can you be fat and fit?

By ALLIE SHAH
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Exercise does a body good, but new research suggests it does less good for obese bodies.

Swedish scientists launched a massive study to try and find out whether being highly fit can mitigate the risk of early death that comes with obesity.

Their findings, published recently in the International Journal of Epidemiology, dispel the idea that people can be "fat but fit."

In other words, weight matters.

Of the 1.3 million young men who participated in the study, the ones who were not fit but weighed a normal amount still were less likely to die over the next few decades than the fittest obese men.

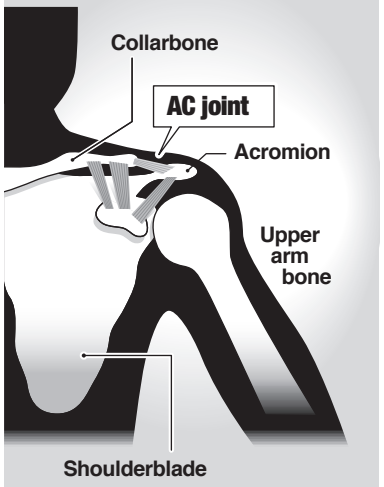
The researchers focused on aerobic fitness, using a cycle test to measure their fitness levels. Obesity was defined using body mass index.

According to the World Health Organization, the higher the BMI, the greater the risk of diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

"Low aerobic fitness in late adolescence is associated with an increased risk of early death," the authors wrote. "The risk of early death was higher in fit obese individuals than in unfit normal-weight individuals."

PERSONAL TRAINER

Strengthening your shoulders



These exercises are good for preventing an acromioclavicular (AC) joint injury, or "separated shoulder" – or for recovering from one.*

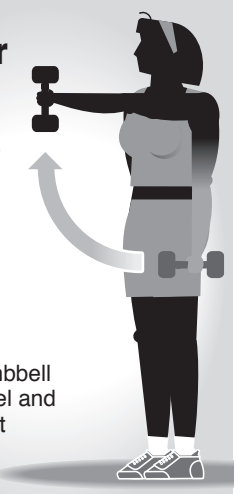
*With a physician's approval of exercises

Shoulder flexion

With thumbs up, lift dumbbells to shoulder level

Lower and repeat

Lift light dumbbell to elbow level and lower; repeat



External rotation

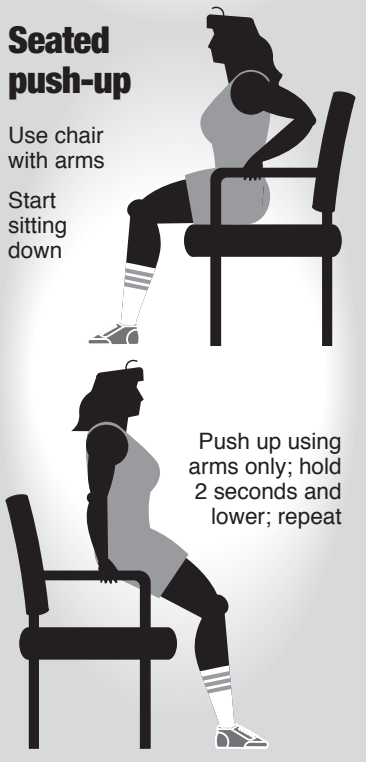
Lie with hurt shoulder on top

Keep elbow bent

Seated push-up

Use chair with arms

Start sitting down



Push up using arms only; hold 2 seconds and lower; repeat

Source: The Physician and Sportsmedicine

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
© 2007 MCT

Life & Style

Beyonce, 'Black Panther' wins at 50th NAACP Image Awards

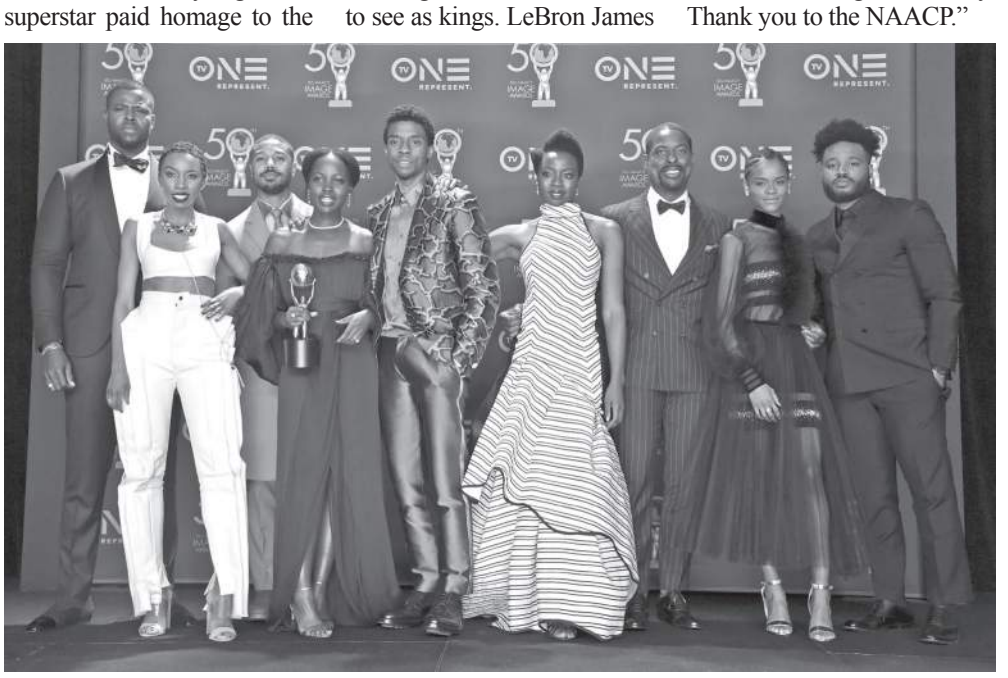
By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Beyonce was named entertainer of the year at the NAACP Image Awards ceremony that highlighted works by entertainers and writers of color.

After Beyonce accepted the award Saturday night, the superstar paid homage to the people who were nominated in the same category as her. She beat out LeBron James, Regina King, Chadwick Boseman and Ryan Coogler.

"Regina King, I love you so much. You taught us patience, persistence and how to be masterful in your craft," she said. "Chadwick Boseman is teaching children to dream and to see as kings. LeBron James has taught us the strength of all forms, leading by example and providing education to our kids. Ryan Coogler tells our stories in a way that celebrates out history and proves we do have power."

Beyonce added: "I'm honored to be included among all of you, and to be a part of a vital and thriving community. Thank you to the NAACP."



The cast of "Black Panther," pose in the press room with the award for outstanding motion picture at the 50th annual NAACP Image Awards on Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

Beyonce released a joint album last year with her husband, Jay-Z, called "Everything is Love." The prolific singer also paid tribute to historically black colleges and universities, as well as the dance troupes and step teams at HBCUs during her groundbreaking two-hour Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival performance. She also performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is known as the national black anthem, at the festival and donated $100,000 to four black universities shortly after her performance.

Angelina Jolie: Fighting for women and justice are crucial

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Actress and activist Angelina Jolie says promoting equality for women, combatting injustice, and helping refugees are the most important parts of her life after her six children.

"But in many ways, they go hand in hand," she said in an interview late Friday with The Associated Press. "It's what I hope my children know is important."

Jolie

Off camera, the 43-year-old Oscar-winner is focused on trying to help millions of people caught up in the world's crises and conflicts, a passion that began in 2001 when she started working for the United Nations refugee agency and traveling to camps for displaced people often in poor developing countries.

"There are simply so many people around the world suffering, and with so little and in so much pain, and to not be spending our time conscious of them and finding solutions for them—it's an empty life," she said.

In the search for solutions, Jolie in 2012 launched the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative with former British foreign secretary William Hague. It is now supported by 156 countries.

Jolie said the initiative's work helped produce the first international protocol on how to document and investigate sexual violence, and national action plans to combat the scourge adopted by some of the worst-affected countries, including South Sudan, Congo and Colombia.

"We tried to move the needle and we have ... because we are working with many governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society around the world and we are listening," she said.

Jolie said sexual violence is important for her because it is seen as "a weapon of war."

"It was not seen as a sexual act," she said. "It costs less than a bullet. It is something that is done systematically, not only to destroy the individual but their family, their community."

Jackson, Nicks enter hall with encouragement for women

NEW YORK (AP)—Stevie Nicks, who became the first woman inducted twice into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Janet Jackson, the latest member of the Jackson clan to enter the hall, called for other women to join them in music immortality on a night they were honored with five all-male British bands.

Jackson issued her challenge just before leaving the stage of Brooklyn's Barclays Center. "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," she said, "in 2020, induct more women."

Neither Jackson or Nicks were around at the end of the evening when another Brit, Ian Hunter, led an all-star jam at the end to "All the Young Dudes." The Bangles' Susanna Hoffs was the only woman onstage.

During the five-hour ceremony, Bryan Ferry of Roxy Music thanked multiple bass players and album cover designers, the Cure's Robert Smith proudly wore his mascara and red lipstick a month shy of his 60th birthday and two of Radiohead's five members showed up for trophies.

During Def Leppard's induction, Rick Allen was moved to tears by the audience's standing ovation when singer Joe Elliott recalled the drummer's perseverance following a 1985 accident that cost him an arm.

Jackson followed her brothers Michael and the Jackson 5 as inductees. She said she wanted to go to college and become a lawyer growing up, but her late father Joe had other ideas for her.

"As the youngest in my family, I was determined to make it on my own," she said. "I was determined to stand on my own two feet. But never in a million years did I expect to follow in their footsteps."

She encouraged Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, producers of her breakthrough "Control" album and most of her vast catalog, to stand in Brooklyn's Barclays Center for recognition, as well as booster Questlove. She thanked Dick Clark of "American Bandstand" and Don Cornelius of "Soul Train," along with her choreographers including Paula Abdul.

Smollett case tests relationship between police, prosecutors

CHICAGO (AP)—When prosecutors dropped the charges that accused Jussie Smollett of orchestrating a fake attack, the outrage was swift and overwhelming. Smollett saw his record wiped clean without offering so much as an apology.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel blasted the decision as a "whitewash of justice" and billed Smollett $130,000 for the cost of the police investigation. President Donald Trump called it a "national embarrassment" and promised a federal probe. The Illinois Prosecutors Bar Association said it was "an affront" to prosecutors across the state.

But for all of the public fury, the two agencies that handled the case—the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office—insist their relationship is strong, even if they didn't agree on the outcome.

Smollett

"I've heard people saying the relationship is broken and fractured, but that is absolutely, patently false," police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. "This is like a marriage, and these relationships need work. But at the end of the day, we all at heart are crime fighters."

The person who has taken the most heat for the decision is State's Attorney Kim Foxx, who was elected in 2016 on a promise to reform an office that many believed was too quick to help police put minorities in prison. She said she recused herself from Smollett's case before he was charged because she had spoken with a Smollett family member when he was still considered a victim.

10TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Cristin "Ting" Cabrera Duenas

We the family invite our relatives and friends to join us
in prayer as we celebrate the 10th year death anniversary
of our beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather.

Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 02, 2019
at 6am at San Jose Church.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Kinai, Children, & Grand children

Stones postpone tour as Jagger receives medical treatment

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rolling Stones are postponing their latest tour so Mick Jagger can receive medical treatment.

The band announced Saturday that Jagger was told by doctors "he cannot go on tour at this time." The band added that Jagger "is expected to make a complete recovery so that he can get back on stage as soon as possible."

AP

In this Oct. 22, 2017 file photo, Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones performs during the concert of their 'No Filter' Europe Tour 2017 at U Arena in Nanterre, outside Paris, France.

No more details about 75-year-old Jagger's condition were provided.

The Stones' No Filter Tour was expected to start April 20 in Miami. Other stops included Jacksonville, Florida; Houston; the New Orleans Jazz Festival; Pasadena and Santa Clara in California; Seattle; Denver; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Foxborough, Massachusetts; East Rutherford, New Jersey; Chicago; and Ontario, Canada.

"I really hate letting you down like this," Jagger tweeted Saturday. "I'm devastated for having to postpone the tour but I will be working very hard to be back on stage as soon as I can."

Tour promoters AEG Presents and Concerts West advise ticketholders to hold on to their existing tickets because will be valid for the rescheduled dates.

George Clooney calls for boycott of hotels over anti-gay law

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Clooney is calling for the boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to the sultan of Brunei, which next month will implement Islamic criminal laws to punish gay sex by stoning offenders to death.

The Hollywood actor wrote Thursday in Deadline Hollywood: "Are we really going to help fund the murder of innocent citizens?"

He writes that you can't shame "murderous regimes," but you can shame "the banks, the financiers and the institutions that do business with them."

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah rules the oil-rich monarchy with full executive authority, and the hotels are owned by the Brunei Investment Agency. An email seeking comment was sent to the agency Friday.

The hotels are The Dorchester and Coworth Park in the U.K.; Beverly Hills Hotel and Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles; Le Meurice and Hotel Plaza Athenee in Paris; Hotel Eden in Rome; and Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan.

The new laws take effect April 3.

Nicolas Cage files for annulment four days after Vegas wedding

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nicolas Cage has filed for an annulment four days after getting married in Las Vegas.

Cage

A court record shows Cage asked for the annulment Wednesday citing reasons that included being too drunk to understand his actions when he married girlfriend Erika Koike.

Cage, whose real name is Nicolas Kim Coppola, says he and Koike drank "to the point of intoxication" before the wedding Saturday.

The 55-year-old Cage argues he wasn't aware of Koike's "relationship with another person."

This is the fourth marriage of the Oscar-winning actor. He was previously married to former waitress Alike Kim, singer-songwriter Lisa Marie Presley and actress Patricia Arquette.

Liam Neeson apologizes again for past racist thoughts

NEW YORK (AP) — Liam Neeson is again apologizing for revealing that he wanted to kill a random black person nearly 40 years ago after a close friend had been raped by a black man.

Neeson issued a statement Friday apologized for "hurtful and divisive" comments that "do not reflect, in any way, my true feelings nor me."

The actor caused a firestorm in early February when he told The Independent that after learning his friend's attacker was black, he hoped a black person "would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know? So that I could kill him."

Neeson

He later told "Good Morning America" that he is not a racist and moved past his desire for violence after seeking help from a priest and from friends. But the controversy overshadowed his new film, "Cold Pursuit."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

ICE arrests man convicted of trespassing at Jenner home

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities have arrested a Canadian man who has twice been convicted of trespassing at the California home of model and Kardashian family member Kendall Jenner. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Friday that John Ford, 38, was arrested earlier this week in the parking lot of an Albuquerque motel after agents received a tip that he was in New Mexico. Authorities said Ford, who has an expired visitor's visa, remains in federal custody in El Paso, Texas, awaiting a hearing on his immigration case. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney. Los Angeles police have arrested him twice in the past year, resulting in misdemeanor convictions and jail time. Most recently, he was found in Jenner's swimming pool. Immigration agents acted quickly on the tip to ensure Ford's obsessive behavior did not escalate into a tragedy, said Jack P. Staton, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in El Paso. "This timely arrest could very well have prevented a violent crime," he said. Jenner's family thanked Los Angeles police and immigration authorities for their work, explaining in a statement that Ford's actions have had "a severe impact" on Jenner's life and the family's sense of security. Immigration records show that Ford had entered the U.S. at Sweetwater, Montana, a year ago with a visa that allowed him to remain in the country no longer than six months.

Tulsa museum to feature musician Bob Dylan's paintings

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A Tulsa museum will soon open a new Bob Dylan exhibit that will showcase 12 pastel portraits the musician painted. The Gilcrease Museum will display "Bob Dylan: Face Value and Beyond" from May 10 to Sept. 15, the Tulsa World reported. The exhibit is filled with pieces from the Bob Dylan Archives, which has more than 100,000 items from his 60-year career. It's the first major show from the archives since it was acquired by the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the University of Tulsa in 2016. The paintings highlight Dylan's multifaceted artistic capabilities, said Michael Chaiken, the archive's curator. "He's best known for his music, but Dylan is also a writer of prose, a filmmaker, and someone who has been involved in the visual arts for decades," Chaiken said. "This show is an opportunity to explore all those different avenues of Dylan's creativity." The portraits were first shown in London in 2013. The only time they were on display in the U.S. was during a two-month exhibit in Ohio in 2016. Unlike previous displays, the Gilcrease exhibit will give more context to Dylan's portraits, Chaiken said. "Here we're able to highlight the fact that there is a precedent for those portraits," he said. "Bob Dylan has been painting and drawing since at least the 1960s, although it's only been in recent years that he's put his work on display. So we have a lot of material to illustrate that, including drawings and sketchbooks that have never been shown before." The exhibit will also include handwritten song lyrics, a black leather jacket, an electric guitar and screen tests filmed by Andy Warhol.

Time takes a toll in wife's figure and husband's interest

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for 20 years. I'm 43, and he's 63. Our sex life has died. He is no longer attracted to me, and he has let me know it.

His love is physical, not emotional. I am not the size 4 I was when he met me. As long as my body looks like he wants it to look, he's into me. If I'm a size 8 or more, he is not at all into me. I have a hard time understanding how he can love me for how I look.

Long story short, my first love has popped back into my life. I have tested the waters with him, and I'm in over my head with the way he makes me feel. I haven't slept with him yet, but I have done everything but. The chemistry between us is undeniable.

I know I'm betraying my husband, and I don't want to hurt him. He is aware of this, and I don't know what to do. Help!

MORE THAN LOOKS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR MORE: Before this goes any further, make up your mind about what you want and need. If it's a man who will love you for yourself, not your exterior, then free your husband to find a mate who will be a perpetual size 4. (Has HIS body changed over the last 20 years?)

Whether things work out between you and your first love is anyone's guess, but if you need the emotional security of sharing your life with someone who values you for more than your looks, the person to whom you are currently married doesn't qualify.

P.S. Time is on your side. In another 20 years your husband will be in his 80s and still trying to find a size 4 who thinks he is sexually attractive, while you'll still be in your prime.

DEAR ABBY: I'm almost sure my wife is cheating on me. On her ladies' night out she has been getting home later and later. Someone drops her off at the corner and she walks to the house. The last time, I hid behind my Harley in the driveway to see if I could determine who is dropping her off. While crouching behind the bike, I noticed a puddle of oil on the driveway. Should I try to fix it myself or should I take it to the dealer?

JIM IN IOWA FALLS

DEAR JIM: Jeez, that one's older than the hills! As intelligent as you are, I'm sure you'll make the right decision. Be careful not to slip on the oil while you're deciding.

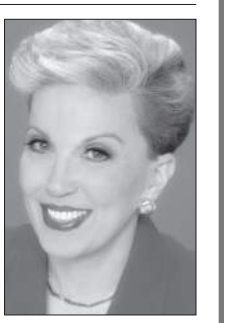
Happy April Fools' Day to you, your wife and all my readers. And that's NO joke!

LOVE, ABBY

DEAR ABBY: A couple of days ago, my boss texted me to ask if I could work overtime. I accidentally responded with a kissing emoji. Before I could explain it was a mistake, my 9-year-old grabbed my phone and sent her five more kissing emojis, two vomiting emojis and 10 poop emojis. When I tried to apologize, I accidentally sent her the middle finger emoji and the bikini emoji.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I got a call from HR later that day and now I have to go to sexual harassment training. Is there anything I can do to fix this situation? I want to let my boss know how the whole thing was a ridiculous misunderstanding, but I'm afraid anything I text will only make things worse.

MISUNDERSTOOD IN MEMPHIS

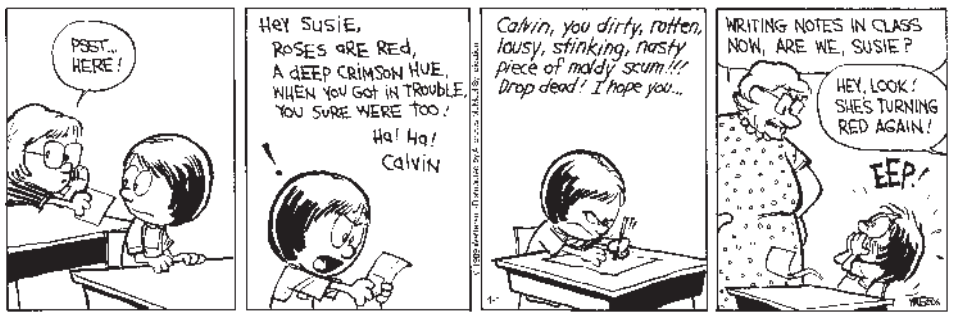
DEAR MISUNDERSTOOD: I think you have already done enough, don't you? Pursue this further and you can grab your ankles and kiss your job goodbye. Happy April Fools' Day to you, too.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

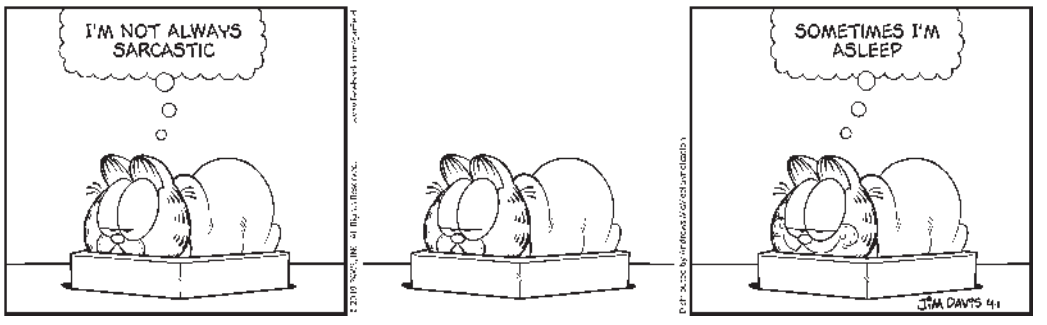
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PSST.. HERE!
Hey Susie, Roses are Red, A deep crimson hue, When you got in trouble, You sure were too! Ha! Ha! Calvin
Calvin, you dirty, rotten, lousy, stinking, nasty piece of moldy scum!!! Drop dead! I hope you...
WRITING NOTES IN CLASS NOW, ARE WE, SUSIE?
HEY, LOOK! SHE'S TURNING RED AGAIN!
EEP!

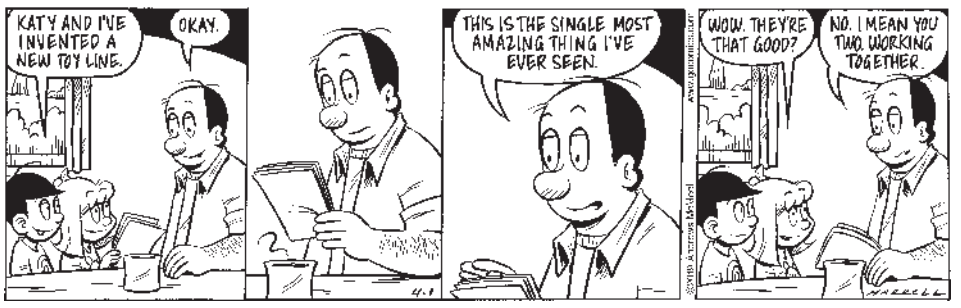
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



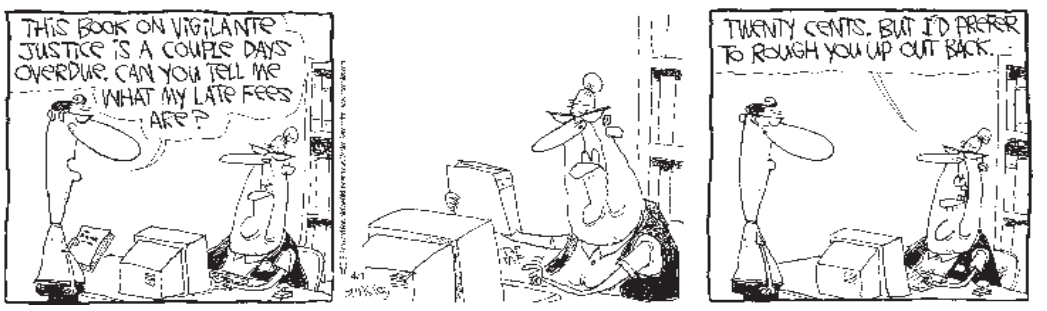
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY AND I'VE INVENTED A NEW TOY LINE.
OKAY.
THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVER SEEN.
WOW. THEY'RE THAT GOOD?
NO. I MEAN YOU TWO. WORKING TOGETHER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS BOOK ON VIGILANTE JUSTICE IS A COUPLE DAYS OVERDUE. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT MY LATE FEES ARE?
TWENTY CENTS. BUT I'D PREFER TO ROUGH YOU UP OUT BACK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

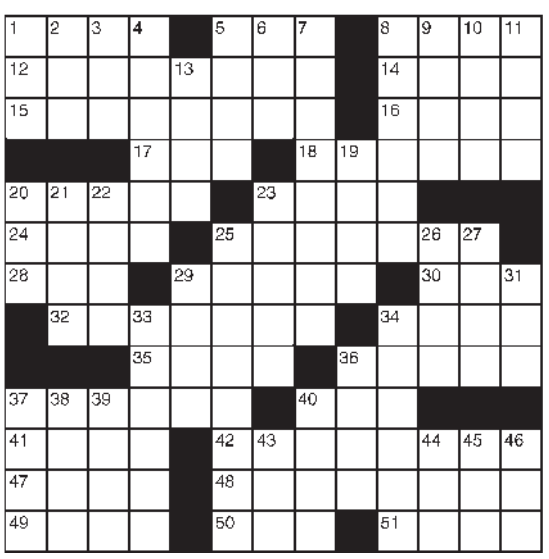
ACROSS
1 "Dream on!"
5 Clothing protector
8 Greet
12 Well-read folks
14 Celestial bear
15 Beatles drummer before Ringo Starr
16 Algeria's neighbor
17 Occupation, for short
18 Straw hat
20 Young horses
23 Printer's blue
24 New York canal
25 Talkers' marathon
28 Bankroll
29 North African capital
30 Josh
32 Doctor's order
34 Trellis climber
35 Missing
36 Mature, as fruit
37 Small porches
40 Spell-down
41 Ms. Brockovich
42 Oater setting
47 "— Lang Syne"
48 Pokey
49 Disarray
50 Toronto's prov.
51 Artist Bonheur

DOWN
1 Swiss peak
2 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
3 Addams cousin
4 Weak
5 Folk singer Joan
6 TGIF part
7 Gradually
8 Compassionate
9 "I smell —!"
10 Cruise stop
11 Hideaway
13 Baseball stats
19 Lummoxes
20 Hardly any
21 Verbal
22 Opera set in Egypt
23 Is able to, old-style
25 "Recognize my voice?"
26 Omit
27 Fork prong
29 Sporty car roof
31 Lion's home
33 Lightheaded folks?
34 TV audience member
36 Some wines
37 Line of fashion?
38 Verifiable
39 Monet's supply
40 Inky stain
43 Charged bit
44 Id counterpart
45 "Mayday!"
46 Former Delta rival

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	M	B	■	I	P	A	D	■	P	C	S	O
M	A	H	■	O	H	N	O	■	A	D	A	M
O	V	E	R	W	I	T	H	■	R	I	G	A
■	■	Z	E	A	L	■	■	O	C	E	A	N
A	S	H	E	N	■	M	I	C	E	■	■	■
W	I	N	D	■	W	I	T	H	L	O	V	E
O	■	E	■	A	R	A	B	S	■	B	E	A
■	C	V	E	G	A	M	E	■	S	N	S	■
■	■	■	M	A	Y	I	■	R	H	E	T	■
N	A	D	I	R	■	■	M	E	O	R	■	■
A	G	O	G	■	G	A	M	E	O	V	E	R
I	H	O	R	■	E	M	I	L	■	E	D	O
S	A	M	E	■	L	E	I	S	■	D	U	D

Last Friday's Answer 04-01



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa Butterfield, 22; Hillary Scott, 33; Taran Killam, 37; Susan Boyle, 58.

Happy Birthday: You'll be faced with decisions that can affect how and where you live. Precision, detail and soul-searching will be required if you want to avoid making a mistake. Take your time and do things right the first time. Don't let temptation lead to impulsive action. A steady pace and preparation will make a difference to the way this year unfolds. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 25, 31, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider your options and how you see yourself moving forward. Making a lateral move may feel safe, but it isn't likely to be satisfying. Being realistic without giving up your dream will require compromise, but it will offer important personal benefits in the end. 4 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change should be made for the right reason. Don't act on an emotional impulse. Consider what's best for everyone before you make your move. The decision you make will determine your success as well as your popularity. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider all your options before you do something that might jeopardize your position, your health or your relationship with someone you love. Honesty and integrity, along with being able to keep a secret, are in your best interest. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Trust and believe in your abilities, and positive reinforcement will be yours. If someone prompts you to make a change based on your talent, experience and knowledge, you should probably follow through. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Go over what you know and do well; put your energy into expanding in those areas. What you have to offer will become more apparent if you discuss possibilities with people who share your concerns as well as your interests.✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Someone will mesmerize and entice you. Proceed with caution. If you act without thinking matters through, you will end up in a difficult position that requires wasting valuable time that should be used to learn and gain experience. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Work hard to bring about changes that will improve your personal finances, your home environment and your attitude toward love and romance. Don't let anyone railroad you into something that isn't going to benefit you. Listen and process information carefully before making a move. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take the plunge. Feeling passionate about something, someone or life and the direction you are pursuing will encourage you to bring about positive change. Home improvements, reconnecting with old friends and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't believe or trust in what someone is trying to sell you. An exaggerated assessment of what's right and what's wrong will make it difficult for you to see clearly. Stick to what you know to avoid making a grave mistake. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Get back to basics. Make positive changes to the way you live, the people you associate with and the way you handle your personal health, finances and legal matters. Your attention will be needed, so don't leave details in someone else's hands. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't get angry; get moving. Pour your energy into something that counts, but not something that will exhaust you or lead to injury. Pace your every move and make the most of whatever situation you face, and positive change will take place. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Simple, moderate and well-thought-out plans will be your ticket to success. Use your imagination to come up with a way to reach your goal without overspending or exerting too much mentally, physically or financially. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, proactive and open-minded. You are insightful and reserved.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			1			3
	2	7		3	4	
		5		2	1	
5	9		7		6	
	6		2	5		9
	4		6		5		1
	9		4		6		
	5			9		3	2	
8			1					6

Difficulty Level ★ 4/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	7	5	8	3	6	1	2	9
8	1	6	9	2	4	5	7	3
3	2	9	7	1	5	4	8	6
2	6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1
9	3	7	5	6	1	2	4	8
5	4	1	2	8	9	6	3	7
1	8	4	6	5	3	7	9	2
7	5	2	1	9	8	3	6	4
6	9	3	4	7	2	8	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS Solution: 12 letters

O	C	P	S	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H	E	L	P
P	T	R	E	S	U	L	T	S	A	E	Ⓢ	C	N	S
E	I	O	F	F	I	C	E	Y	A	Ⓘ	K	O	E	Y
R	M	G	R	D	I	S	R	L	Ⓡ	S	I	N	U	C
A	E	N	O	L	R	E	T	Ⓜ	D	T	L	D	R	H
T	X	O	O	U	G	H	L	N	A	U	L	I	O	I
I	P	S	N	R	C	A	U	Z	T	D	E	T	L	A
O	E	I	U	A	R	O	I	N	E	Y	D	I	O	T
N	R	S	R	R	S	L	I	S	T	S	G	O	G	R
O	T	E	E	A	A	K	C	T	S	C	A	N	I	I
E	I	F	R	I	S	M	O	T	P	M	Y	S	S	S
G	E	T	C	L	I	N	I	C	S	T	S	E	T	T
R	L	E	L	U	D	E	H	C	S	L	E	E	P	S
U	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	R	A	I	N	E	D	T
S	I	S	O	N	G	A	I	D	O	C	T	O	R	S

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Clinic, Conditions, CT Scan, Date, Diagnosis, Doctors, Expert, Health Care, Help, Hospitals, Lists, MRIs, Neurologist, Nurse, Office, Operation, Patient, Prognosis, Psychiatrist, Referral, Results, Schedule, Skilled, Skin, Sleep, Specialization, Study, Surgeon, Surgery, Symptoms, Tests, Time, Trained, Ultrasound

Last Friday's Answer: Janes Addiction

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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RFP19-CHCC/DPH-CCCP-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 22, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM
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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM
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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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Tel.: 234-7859 • Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0252**
ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
	Date: April 4, 2019
	Time: 9:00 am
	Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed an Order Setting Status Conference in the above-titled matter. The hearing on the Status Conference is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2019.

/s/ Clerk of Court / Deputy Clerk of Court

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Harper homers deep for first Phillies hit

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper homered deep into the second deck in right-center field for his first hit with Philadelphia and celebrated with an emphatic curtain call, highlighting the Phillies' 8-6 win over the Atlanta Braves on Saturday.

Hitless over five at-bats this season after signing a $330 million, 13-year deal, Harper crushed Jesse Biddle's fastball 465 feet with two outs in the seventh. Fans gave Harper a standing ovation and chanted "MVP! MVP!"

After getting high fives in the dugout, Harper climbed out for a curtain call, throwing both fists in the air and shouting "Let's go!"

Maikel Franco and J.T. Realmuto also went deep for Philadelphia. The game was tied at 4 in the fifth when Realmuto lined a two-run drive off Wes Parsons (0-1).

Adam Morgan (1-0) faced one batter in the fifth inning.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper celebrates after hitting a home run off Atlanta Braves relief pitcher Jesse Biddle during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Orioles 5, Yankees 3

In New York, Brandon Hyde earned his first win as Baltimore's manager when slow-footed catcher Jesus Sucre was aggressive on the bases to score the go-ahead run, then added three late RBIs.

Jimmy Yacabonis (1-0) allowed one run over three innings for his first win since September 2017. Mike Wright struck out Miguel Andujar with two on for his first pro save in nine seasons.

Indians 2, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Greg Allen hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning, then Cleveland reliever Brad Hand escaped a bases-loaded jam for the save. It was 34 degrees for the start of the game at Target Field.

Hand retired C.J. Cron on a flyball to end it for a save, completing a combined two-hitter.

Jon Edwards (1-0) got two outs for his first career victory.

Blue Jays 3, Tigers 0

In Toronto, Aaron Sanchez and four relievers combined to pitch Toronto's second straight shutout.

The Blue Jays threw just three shutouts all of last season, the second fewest in the majors. Detroit was last with two.

The Tigers were blanked an MLB-leading 18 times in 2018. They've scored in only one of 28 innings so far this season.

Mets 11, Nationals 8

In Washington, J.D. Davis delivered a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning and rookie Pete Alonso contributed three hits and two RBIs for the new-look Mets.

Jeff McNeil had four hits for the visitors. Alonso doubled twice and also had a couple of nice stretch plays at first base in the second game of his major league career. He is one of the young components of a reconstructed roster under agent-turned-GM Brodie Van Wagenen.

Royals 8, White Sox 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jorge Soler had three hits and three RBIs, Alex Gordon scored three runs despite not getting a hit and Kansas City used its speed to win.

Billy Hamilton got three hits and scored twice for the speedy Royals, off to a 2-0 start for the first time since their World Series-winning season in 2015.

The first pitch was delayed 30 minutes because of rain. When the game began, it was 38 degrees and felt like 28, whipped by 18 mph winds.

Rays 3, Astros 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tyler Glasnow and four relievers shut down Houston after Alex Bregman's first-inning homer.

Bregman went deep on his 25th birthday, but Glasnow (1-0) was otherwise excellent, striking out four and allowing six hits over five innings. Ryne Stanek followed with two hitless innings, and Jose Alvarado pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Marlins 7, Rockies 3

In Miami, Miguel Rojas and Martin Prado each had three hits and Miami won for the first time this season.

Rockies first baseman Daniel Murphy said after the game he will be out indefinitely with a broken left index finger.

Limited to a total of six hits in a pair of losses to Colorado earlier this week, the Marlins broke loose for 16 hits against starter Tyler Anderson (0-1) and four relievers.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 2

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich became the first MVP to homer in the first three games of the following season, Josh Hader closed things out with an immaculate inning and Milwaukee beat St. Louis.

Travis Shaw and Mike Moustakas also homered off Cardinals starter Dakota Hudson, and Brandon Woodruff (1-0) struck out five while pitching five innings of two-run ball.

Rangers 8, Cubs 6

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Texas rallied long after Chicago's Yu Darvish flopped in the former Rangers ace's return to his first home in the majors.

Gallo's homer to center field came off reliever Carl Edwards Jr. (0-1), who didn't retire any of the four batters he faced in the first win for new Rangers manager Chris Woodward.

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Diego, Reyes Moronta struck out five in two innings of lights-out relief work, including Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr., and San Francisco beat San Diego for its first victory this season.

The Giants were at risk of going 0-3 for the first time since 2012, when they won their second of three World Series in five seasons under manager Bruce Bochy, who is retiring after this season.

Athletics 4, Angels 2

In Oakland, California, Mark Canha hit a two-run homer in the fourth that held up for Brett Anderson, and Oakland beat Los Angeles.

Stephen Piscotty added a two-run single in the third. Anderson (1-0) pitched six scoreless innings in his first start of the year after the lefty signed as a free agent for his third stint with the A's. Anderson, who also pitched for Oakland last year and from 2009-2013, allowed three hits, struck out four and walked two.

Dodgers 18, Diamondbacks 5

In Los Angeles, Cody Bellinger hit two homers and drove in a career high-tying six runs, Justin Turner added five RBIs and Los Angeles rebounded splendidly from a 13-inning loss.

Bellinger had four hits and Joc Pederson had three after leading off the game with his third homer for Los Angeles.

Mariners 6, Red Sox 5

In Seattle, Jay Bruce hit his first home run for Seattle, a three-run shot to center field, and the heavy-hitting Mariners continued to dominate Boston's starting pitching.

The Mariners have hit a home run in every game this season and continued to batter Red Sox starters, with Bruce helping to chase Eduardo Rodriguez (0-1) in the fifth inning.

Woods meets his match in Bjerregaard at Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The conditions were severe. The high stakes put a premium on every shot down the stretch. Tiger Woods was in his element.

Only this time, he was a spectator.

Woods finally met his match Saturday in the Dell Technologies Match Play, and it wasn't Rory McIlroy.

Lucas Bjerregaard delivered the clutch shots so often seen from Woods in their quarterfinal match. He holed a 30-foot eagle putt to tie the match on the par-5 16th. He holed a 12-foot birdie putt that snapped hard to the right at the end on No. 17, knowing Woods was in tight for a certain birdie.

And on the final hole, Woods blinked first.

His lob wedge from a fluffy lie in the rough came out soft, short and in a bunker. Given a chance to send the match to overtime, Woods missed a 4-foot putt.

"It's a shame it had to end the way it did," Bjerregaard said. "Our match didn't deserve that. But I'm happy to be on the winning side."

Bjerregaard considers Woods his golfing hero, and he used to take his book to the range in Denmark with hopes of copying his swing. He never could get it just right, though the 27-year-old Dane showed plenty of Woods' mettle.

Equally surprising was how Woods won earlier Saturday against McIlroy, a big match between the two biggest stars left at Austin Country Club. McIlroy was on the verge of squaring the match on the 16th hole when he had a short iron for his second shot into the par-5 16th. He made 7 and Woods closed him out on the next hole.

McIlroy was so angry he walked briskly away into a cart, and wouldn't make eye contact on his way to the car.

Woods knows the feeling.

"This is going to sting for a few days," Woods said in his last event before the Masters.

Bjerregaard, who won his first European Tour title last fall at St. Andrews in the Dunhill Links, next faces Matt Kuchar on Sunday morning in the semifinals.

Kuchar had to cope with a contentious moment in his 2-up victory over Sergio Garcia, two players in the news this year for all the wrong reasons.

Garcia had an 8-foot par putt on No. 7 to win the hole to square the match. He left it just short, and then casually stabbed at it from the other side as it rimmed around the cup. Such putts typically are conceded. Kuchar said that was his intention. But under the rules, a putt can't be conceded after a player hits it.

Virginia reaches Final Four in overtime classic

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — From embarrassment to exhilaration. From early exit to regional champ. From bracket busters to net cutters.

Virginia, the first No. 1 seed to lose to a 16 seed a year ago, survived overtime and Carsen Edwards' staggering 3-point show Saturday night to make it to the Final Four for the first time since 1984.

The top-seeded Cavaliers needed a last-ditch buzzer-beater to send the game to overtime and finally contained Edwards in the extra period to hang on for an 80-75 victory over Purdue in the South Region final.

The Cavaliers (33-3) redeemed themselves from last year's loss to UMBC by relying on veterans, sound defense, poise, controlling the ball and a failure to be rattled even when the Boilermakers had the chance to ice the game in regulation at the foul line.

Their balance and experience allowed them to overcome a brilliant performance by Edwards, whose 10 3-pointers were one shy of the NCAA Tournament record. Edwards finished with 42 points for third-seeded Purdue (26-10) and none of his teammates scored more than seven each.

Edwards was named the Most Outstanding Player of the South regional, becoming the first player to win the honor from a losing team since Stephen Curry in 2008. Fitting, too, since Edwards scored the most points (139) through four NCAA Tournament game since 2000; Curry had the previous most with 128 points for Davidson.

De'Andre Hunter scored four points in overtime, including the go-ahead layup with 29 seconds remaining, while Kyle Guy and Kihei Clark each added two free throws as Virginia finally broke free from Purdue.

"We've come from so far. The way last year ended, everyone probably counted us out," Guy said. "Man, I'm so proud of our guys, our coaching staff and our beautiful fans. I can't even put into words what this means."

Virginia got a last-gasp jumper from Mamadi Diakite as time expired to force overtime and the Cavaliers got clutch baskets from Ty Jerome and Hunter, who also had two free throws, before Guy and Clark sealed the victory.

Guy injured his ankle in the first half and his return was uncertain. But he came out from the break and hit back-to-back 3s and finished with 25 points—21 after halftime—and 10 rebounds. Jerome had 24, Diakite 14 and Hunter 10 as the Cavaliers outlasted the high-scoring Boilermakers.

Edwards had been unstoppable until overtime, and although he connected on a jumper, he missed a late 3 and committed a turnover that ultimately led to Clark's game-sealing foul shots.

"I tried to get a catch and we were down three so we were expecting the foul," Edwards said of his mistake. "We had a screen for Ryan (Cline) and I was just trying to kick it ahead before he fouled me, and I just, just kind of... it was a tough catch for Ryan, and just how it happens."

The win put coach Tony Bennett in the Final Four for the first time in a decade with the Cavaliers. His father, Dick Bennett, coached Wisconsin to the Final Four in 2000 —beating Purdue in the regional finals.

"No one knows what this team has been through," Bennett said in a TV interview. "I do. And it's good."

Purdue had its chances and the momentum at times. But the Boilermakers were beat 39-31 on the boards, giving Virginia opportunities that ultimately made the difference.

"Give them credit, because when we were getting stops from them, we couldn't secure the basketball," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "If we could have done a better job defensive rebounding, it would have really helped us."

AP

Virginia's Jack Salt, front left, grabs a rebound over Purdue's Eric Hunter Jr., center, and teammate De'Andre Hunter, right, during the first half of the men's NCAA Tournament college basketball South Regional final game, Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Louisville, Ky.

Texas Tech 75, Gonzaga 69

In Anaheim, one player came all the way from Italy. Another arrived from rural Illinois after a stop in South Dakota. Still another could've gone a lot of places but chose to stay home and see if he could help Texas Tech make the big time.

It can't get much bigger than this.

Coach Chris Beard and his group of unheralded grinders notched a victory for everyone with a chip on their shoulder Saturday, gutting out a win over Gonzaga that's sending the Red Raiders to the Final Four.

Davide Moretti of Bologna, Italy, made the two most important 3-pointers of his life to open a sliver of a cushion, then defense sealed the deal—and wrapped up a trip to college basketball's biggest stage for the first time in the 94-year history of the program.

"Texas Tech is going to the Final Four," Beard said. "Some of you look surprised. But Texas Tech is going to the Final Four."

Anyone who has caught even a glimpse of this team's nation-leading defense wouldn't have been surprised. It was typical of the Red Raiders (30-6)—in this case, an inch-by-inch takedown of the nation's most prolific offense, punctuated by Tariq Owens' major rejection of Rui Hachimura with 56 seconds left - one of Texas Tech's seven blocked shots, to go with nine steals and 16 forced turnovers.

"It's real. That defense is real," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "It impacted us tonight. They took a lot of balls tonight."

Jarrett Culver, an NBA prospect who chose his hometown college over several other suitors, led the Red Raiders with 19 points. Matt Mooney, out of Wauconda, Illinois, and playing as a graduate transfer from South Dakota, had 17.

But, as usual, the biggest stats came on defense.

Texas Tech held the Bulldogs to 42 percent shooting, some 10 points below their average. This was only the fourth time Gonzaga was held under 70 this season. In short, the Red Raiders gave the Zags very little room to breathe.

"I think I turned the ball over five times in the first half," said Gonzaga forward Brandon Clarke. "It's something I've never done."

After falling behind by 7 points late, Gonzaga (33-4) chipped away and pulled within 71-69 on Zach Norvell Jr.'s putback with 11 seconds left. But

Josh Perkins reached over the end line and tipped the ball out of Mooney's hand as he was inbounding, and the refs called a technical.

"I just reached at it," Perkins said. "It was a bonehead play, something I'll think about forever."

Moretti (12 points) did the honors—sinking the technical free throws to ice the game.

He was the player brought to tears earlier this month, when his family visited from Italy and Beard brought them into the meeting room to surprise him.

If he thought that was fun, just wait.

"I can't believe we're here after all the work we did this season," Moretti said.

Cards meet with Sosa, may pass on Murray

The Arizona Cardinals are doing their due diligence with the top players available in the NFL draft. The team reportedly met and had dinner with Ohio State pass rusher Nick Bosa on Friday night.

Some believe the Cardinals will select quarterback Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, especially after Cardinals head coach Kliff Kingsbury said he would take Murray with the first pick when Kingsbury was coaching at Texas Tech.

While that still may be the case, the Cardinals still thought it was a good idea to meet with Bosa. Given the importance of the team getting the No. 1 overall pick right, meeting with Bosa makes sense.

A number of analysts believe Bosa is the best player in the draft. Our own Eric Edholm said Bosa is one of the two players "squarely at the top of this draft."

It helps that Bosa is the brother of Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa. Bosa's football pedigree is strong.

The Cardinals have also met with Murray in the lead-up to the draft.

Ultimately, the Cardinals may still select Murray No. 1 overall. Even if Bosa is the consensus top player in the draft, the importance of getting a franchise-altering quarterback could prove too tempting for the Cardinals to pass up.

Cardinals fans who desperately want Murray have no reason to panic just yet. The Cardinals lose nothing by meeting with Bosa. It would be irresponsible for them to not explore multiple options considering their situation.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Eagles have acquired running back Jordan Howard from the Chicago Bears for a conditional sixth-round pick in next year's NFL draft.

Howard bolsters an Eagles backfield that includes Josh Adams, who led the team in rushing with 511 yards last season, Wendell Smallwood and Corey Clement.

The draft pick could become a fifth-rounder based on conditions of the trade that was completed Thursday night.

The 24-year-old Howard ran for 935 yards last year, his lowest total in three NFL seasons. But he also tied a career high with nine touchdown runs.

A fifth-round draft pick out of Indiana in 2016, Howard has 13 100-yard rushing games in his career, tied for the third-most in the NFL in that span. He made the Pro Bowl in his first season when he set a Bears rookie record with 1,313 yards rushing.

Howard has rushed for 3,370 yards and 24 touchdowns in his career, and has 72 catches for 568 yards and a TD.

Harden hits 50-point triple-double, Rockets top Kings

HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden and the Houston Rockets knew they'd have to be aggressive Saturday night to counteract the young and fast-paced Sacramento Kings.

It was that mindset that led to another huge game for the Beard and a victory for the Rockets.

Harden had 50 points 11 rebounds and 10 assists, scoring 10 straight Houston points down the stretch to help the Rockets beat the Kings 119-108.

"They made a run, which we knew they were going to have in them," Harden said. "But I just tried to be aggressive, whether it was making an assist or getting to the basket or shooting my shot. That was it."

Harden had his 42nd career triple-double and third 50-point game in the last six. He made seven 3-pointers to become the ninth player in NBA history to reach 2,000 career 3s. It was his NBA-record fifth 50-point triple-double, which is two more than second-place Russell Westbrook, and the second this season.

Coach Mike D'Antoni, who is in his third season with the Rockets, continues to be impressed by Harden's performances.

"It's remarkable what he does, and he does it every night," D'Antoni said. "I keep thinking: 'gosh, can he do this every game.' And then he does it for three years."

Houston had a three-point lead when Harden re-entered with less than seven minutes left. Willie Cauley-Stein made an alley-oop dunk to cut it to one before Harden scored all of Houston's points in a 10-2 run that made it 111-102 with three minutes to go. Harden grabbed the rebound after a miss by Marvin Bagley and found Clint Capela for a dunk that pushed the lead to 113-104.

Capela added 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Chis Paul had 22 points. Houston has won four of five.

Bogdan Bogdanovic had 24 points for the Kings. They have lost two straight and fell to 0-3 against Houston this season.

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots a three-point basket as Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Houston.

76ers 118, Timberwolves 109

In Minneapolis, Tobias Harris scored 25 points for Philadelphia in Jimmy Butler's jeer-filled return to Minnesota, helping the 76ers hang on and move one step closer toward solidifying the No. 3 seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Ben Simmons pitched in 20 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for the Sixers (49-27), who stretched their lead over Boston and Indiana to 4 1/2 games with eight games to go. They're still four games behind second-place Toronto.

Rookie Jonah Bolden filled in for Joel Embiid and posted a career-best 19 points for the Sixers, who overcame the precautionary absence of their All-Star center and a quiet night by Butler to start a three-game road trip with a quality win.

Nets 110, Celtics 96

In New York, D'Angelo Russell scored 20 of his 29 points in another blistering third quarter against Boston, leading Brooklyn over the short-handed Celtics.

Back from a seven-game trip that lasted more than two weeks, the Nets had a happy homecoming thanks largely to Russell, who added 10 assists and finished with 25 points after halftime.

Caris LeVert added 15 points for the Nets, who had dropped the final two games of the trip and still face a tough stretch now that they're back home.

Pistons 99, Trail Blazers 90

In Detroit, Reggie Jackson scored 28 points, Andre Drummond had 22 points and 19 rebounds, and Detroit ended Portland's six-game winning streak.

The Pistons were missing Blake Griffin, who was scratched moments before game time with a sore left knee, but were able to maintain a half-game lead over the Brooklyn Nets for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference. Detroit has won 11 straight at home.

Damian Lillard scored 23 points and Enes Kanter added 20 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, which fell a half-game behind the Houston Rockets for the third seed in the Western Conference.

Magic 121, Pacers 116

In Indianapolis, Aaron Gordon had 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Orlando racked up a season-high 37 assists in a win over Indiana to keep pace in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Coming off a blowout loss at Detroit that snapped a six-game win streak, Orlando got back on track with a relentless attack. The Magic shot 51 percent from the field and finished with only seven turnovers.

Orlando remained a half-game behind Miami for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot after the Heat beat the New York Knicks.

Darren Collison posted 24 points and nine assists for the Pacers, who shot 53 percent from the field but committed 15 turnovers in losing to the Magic for the third time this season.

Heat 100, Knicks 92

In New York, Dion Waiters scored 28 points, Dwyane Wade added 16 in his last game at Madison Square Garden, and Miami beat New York.

Hassan Whiteside finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Heat, while Kelly Olynyk chipped in 12 points and 11 rebounds. Goran Dragic had 10 points and 10 assists.

The Heat have won six of their last eight games and hold a half-game lead over Orlando for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference.

Raptors 124, Bulls 101

In Chicago, Serge Ibaka had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Fred VanVleet also scored 23 and Toronto routed Chicago despite playing without Kawhi Leonard and Pascal Siakam.

Marc Gasol had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists as Toronto won its third straight.

Leonard was excused for personal reasons and didn't make the trip to Chicago. He leads the Raptors in scoring at 27 points and has played in 55 of the team's 77 games this season. Siakam, who averages 17 points, was healthy and in uniform on the bench, but was held out to rest. The third-year forward had 31 points Thursday in a win over the New York Knicks.

Walt Lemon Jr., in his first game with the team, led the short-handed Bulls with 19 points.

Clippers 132, Cavaliers 108

In Los Angeles, Montrezl Harrell scored 23 points, rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 22 points and eight assists, and playoff-bound Los Angeles beat Cleveland.

The Clippers have won seven of eight and 12 of 14, and they moved within one-half game of San Antonio for the fifth seed in the Western Conference.

JaMychal Green added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who connected on 15 of 33 3-pointers. Los Angeles shot 62.4 percent overall. Jordan Clarkson scored 26 points in 24 minutes off the bench for Cleveland, while rookie Collin Sexton added 21 points and Cedi Osman had 19. Sexton scored at least 20 points for the 11th time in his past 12 games.

Grizzlies 120, Suns 115

In Phoenix, Jonas Valanciunas scored a career-high 34 points and grabbed 20 rebounds, Mike Conley added 33 points and Memphis overcame 48 from Devin Booker to beat Phoenix.

Valanciunas scored 10 points in the final 4 1/2 minutes as the Grizzlies finished on a 16-9 run. They had lost five of seven.

Booker had 24 points in the first quarter and fell two short of becoming the fifth player in NBA history to score at least 50 points in three straight games. He had the ball on the final two Suns possessions but was double-teamed and could not get off a shot.

LA Lakers shutting down LeBron for rest of season

LOS ANGELES—With the Los Angeles Lakers out of the playoffs and All-Star forward LeBron James less than 100% healthy, the Lakers have decided to shut down James for the remainder of the season.

"After consulting with our team doctors and medical staff, we have decided to hold LeBron out of games for the remainder of the season," the Lakers said in a statement. "This decision will allow his groin to fully heal and is best for the future success of both LeBron and the Lakers."

James' streak of 13 consecutive playoff appearances and eight consecutive NBA Finals appearances will come to end when the Lakers' season concludes April 9.

James' 55 games played this season will mark the lowest total of his career—he even played 62 in the lockout-shortened, 66-game season in 2011-12.

James missed 17 consecutive games from late December to late January after sustaining a strained left groin against Golden State on Christmas. At the time, the Lakers were 20-14 and in fourth place in the Western Conference. But the Lakers were 6-11 in those 17 games without James and dropped in the standings.

Trade discussions involving Lakers players not named LeBron James combined with James' absence sent the Lakers into a free-fall from which they couldn't recover. Even after James declared he activated playoff mode following the All-Star break.

The Lakers were 28-29, in 10th place in the West and just three games out of a playoff spot. But Los Angeles lost 12 of its next 15 games and dropped out of playoff contention. The Lakers sit 34-42, in 11th place in the West and 10 games out of eighth place with six games remaining in the regular season.

Patriots-Angels clinch softball crown

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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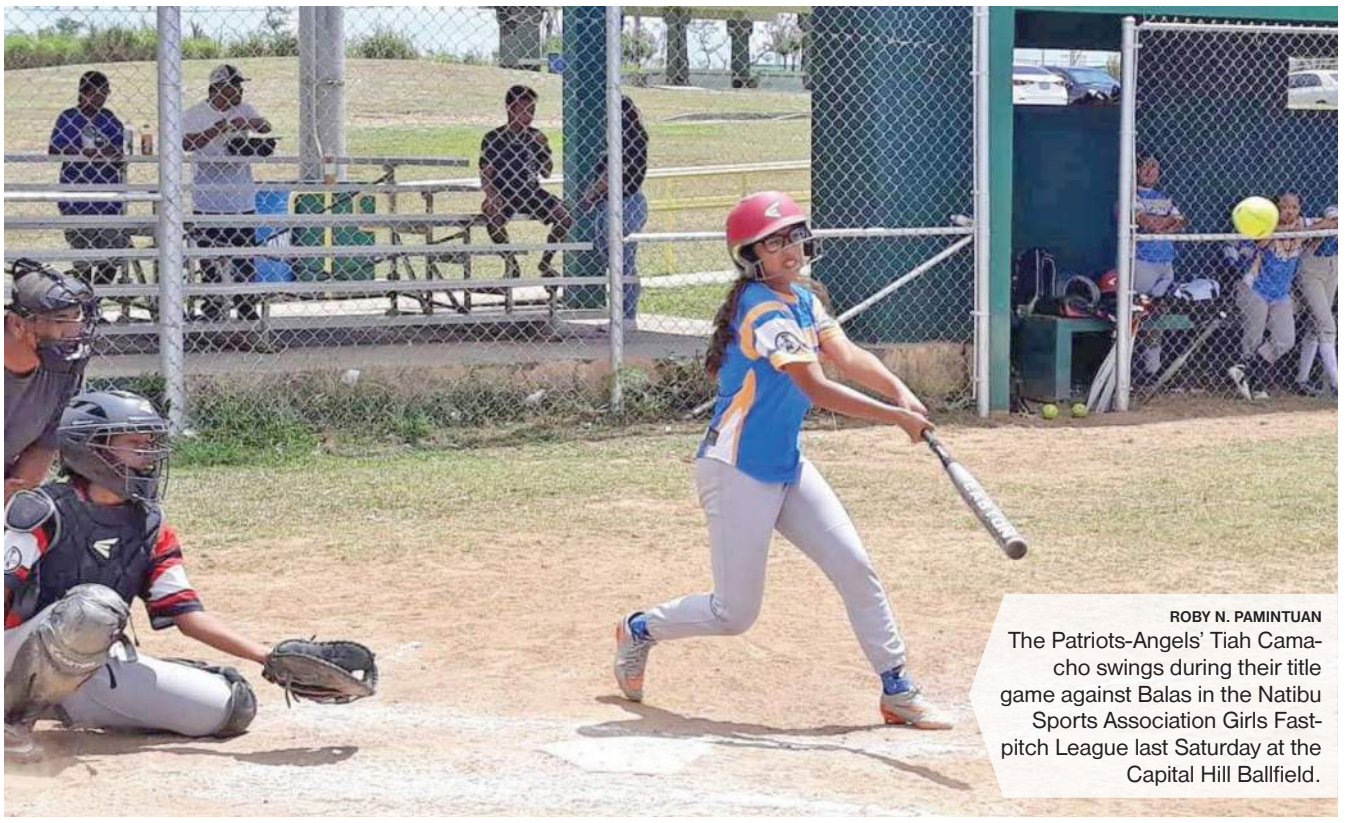
CORRESPONDENT

The Patriots-Angels dominated Balas, 20-3, in the championship match in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

With the No. 1 Patriots-Angels' one-sided victory over the No. 2 Balas, the former put the cherry on top of their undefeated season.

The Patriots-Angels and Balas were engaged in a brief stalemate when the first inning wrapped up, 1-1, before the eventual champions opened the floodgates and drowned their foes with 19 runs in the ensuing three innings to finish the finale early.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
The Patriots-Angels' Tiah Camacho swings during their title game against Balas in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
The Patriots-Angels' players and coaches huddle after beating Balas, 20-3, in the finals of the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Balas' pitching errors and defensive lapses in the second inning gave the Patriots-Angels the foothold they needed to swing the doors open. Christy Aldan walked to first base after a hit by pitch, while Chanel Espinosa and Richelle Ramon also got free passes to first after Balas' pitcher repeatedly missed her mark. Aldan, Espinosa, Ramon, Kiana Camacho, and Tiah Camacho went on to reach for the Patriots-Angels' 6-1 advantage.

Balas' defensive struggles carried over into the third inning and the Patriots-Angels capitalized to pull away further. The Patriots-Angels scored 7 more runs and silenced Balas to increase their advantage to 13-1.

Then in the fourth inning, Marika Laniyo pounded Balas when she fired off a two-run homer. Tiah Camacho later ended the game with a bang after blasting a grand slam that sent Espinosa, Sablan, and Christy Aldan home. Earlier at the top of the fourth inning, Ashley Aguon hit a two-run homer for Balas.

After the season finale, Tiah Camacho was quick to acknowledge and thank everyone that contributed to the Patriots-Angels' banner year.

"Our first season was amazing and unforgettable," Tiah Camacho said. "It wouldn't have been possible without our parents, family, friends, coaches, managers, my team, and the Man up above. Playing a part in the championship really made me feel good because I could contribute for my team and show people what girls are capable of on the field."

"Winning the championship this year has been an honor and an amazing experience," she added. "It was really unexpected for all of us, considering the fact that a majority of [my teammates] just started playing ball this year."

The Patriots-Angels compensated for their inexperience by investing time and effort on improving their skills, individually and as a team. Their coaches and managers also constantly reminded them of the importance of team chemistry and effective communication on the field.

Kiana Aldan agreed that their championship season would not be possible without a unified and strong work ethic.

"My teammates and I, including our coaches, practice as much as we can to correct our mistakes and learn to play better," Kiana Aldan said. "We all believe that hard work brought us to the championship."

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rounding out the list.

Redemption for Iijima

In the women's division, Guam's Manami Iijima topped her event anew to complete a three-peat.

She finished the race in 3:12:12 with split times of 23:19 (swim), 1:41:06 (bike), and 1:04:47 (run) to beat fellow Guam triathlete Laura Nadeau (3:13:18) and the Philippines' Maria Hodges (3:26:13).

Though she dominated last Saturday's race, the Guam pride called Tagaman her "redemption race."

"I raced in Ironman 70.3 Davao in the Philippines last week and had a tough race. I was throwing up in the bike leg and had mechanical issues, too. Then just into the 1K of the run leg (21.1K), I passed out and had to be brought to the ambulance," Iijima said.

Iijima, who was among the favorites in the PH tournament, managed to complete the race, but dropped to sixth place.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Laura Nadeau is all smiles as she nears the finish line of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

"When I returned to Guam, I knew I had to recover fast to get ready for Tagaman. I had to come here and redeem myself for the not so good race I had in the Philippines," she said.

In Tagaman, Iijima got off to a strong start, as she was six minutes ahead of Nadeau (29:39) after the swim leg and was more than four minutes faster than Hodges (27:24). The gap in the swim leg allowed Iijima to offset Nadeau's lead in the bike portion, as the latter timed in at 1:38:39 or a little over two minutes faster than the former. Hodges submitted 1:45:44. Nadeau also had a better time in the run leg at 1:05:00, more than two minutes ahead of Iijima, who still reached the finish line first in the division after getting enough cushion in the swim leg. The Guam was a former member of a swim club on the island before switching to triathlon.

MCS

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42-29. Matthew Richardson generated 5 consecutive points in the pivotal third canto, while Mikel Johnson and Chioni Dela Cruz also contributed in handing the Knights a 13-point lead, going into the final canto.

The Ayuyus fell behind by a baker's dozen, as they were held to single digit scoring and four field goals in the third period. Kagman then rallied in the fourth quarter behind Dean Blake and Henry Aguon with the former scoring 12 points and the latter adding 7 in the team's final push. However, the Knights' double-digit spread coupled with the timely baskets from their key players in the fourth canto were more than enough to keep their safe distance against the Ayuyus.

Richardson led the Knights' charge with his 25 points, 12 of which came from his perfect performance from the charity stripe. He was later named All-Island and CCOPSA MVP.

"I felt humbled and honored winning those awards, but I really wanted to share them with my teammates, because all in all, it was a team effort, and I couldn't have done it without them," Richardson said.

Dela Cruz and Johnson also contributed to the Knights' triumph, as the former netted 14 markers and the latter finished with 9 points. Blake accounted for over half of Kagman's output, as he posted 27 points. The rest of the Ayuyus didn't offer much help, as Aguon and Magofna managed to put up just 9 and 8 markers, respectively.

Johnson drew first blood in the finals with his putback. Keith Santos then swished both of his shots from the foul line, while Dela Cruz connected on his lay ups and free throws for his 6 points, and Richardson ended the quarter with an and-1 play for Mt. Carmel's 13-12 advantage. Blake shouldered Kagman's offense with his 8 markers.

In the second period, Blake continued to carry much of the scoring burden, adding 6 points, while J.D. Magofna was the only other player who hit the board for the Ayuyus in that meltdown.

In contrast, Richardson drew help from teammates in the second quarter to keep their squad on top and the Knights played even better in the final two periods to complete the upset and reap the fruits of the countless hours of practice they put in for this season.

"Going into the game, we knew we had a lot of doubters, so having to deal with that, and overcoming those types of obstacles felt great," said Richardson, as they lost to the Ayuyus twice in the elimination round.

"Every time we practiced, we always worked as a team to get better each time. Richardson said. "Going through drills, as well as working on our offense and defense helped boost our confidence entering the championship."

The league MVP thanked their coach and supporters for helping them rule the competition.

"Of course, it all starts with our coach, Coach [Francis] San Nicolas, because without him, none of this would be possible," Richardson said. "This season was also successful because of the entire Knight family that supported us and cheered us on to victory. Mount Carmel is an amazing school and I'm so lucky to be a part of it."

MCS 1 57—Richardson 25, Dela Cruz 14, Johnson 9, Evangelista 5, Santos 4.

KHS 51—Blake 29, Aguon 9, Magofna 8, Quitano 3, Lifoifoi 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-12, 24-20, 42-29, 57-51.

Harper homers deep for first Phillies hit

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Sports

Harden hits 50-point triple-double, Rockets top Kings

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Triumphant Tagaman return

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japan's Yu Shinozaki celebrates his victory in last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Japanese pro Yu Shinozaki kept his promise, as he returned for the 30th Tagaman Triathlon and ruled last Saturday's race.

Shinozaki completed the two-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15K run with a blistering time of 2:48:39 to lead more than 100 finishers and clinch the men's pro championship, which he missed last year after a bike crash.

"I made a promise to come back after I did not finish the race last year because I had a crash," said Shinozaki.

A car hit a police motorcycle then Shinozaki while he was breezing past the intersection in Beach Road and Chalan Hagoi near the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. The Japanese pro was ahead of last year's race, but had to pull out, as he was brought to the hospital to treat the cuts, bruises, and contusion on his right knee. He managed to attend the awards ceremony of the 2018 competition, but was in a wheelchair and later had to go through a series of tests in Japan to determine the extent of the damage the accident caused to him.

"I recovered very well, as I did some rehab. Today, I had a very good race. I rode the bike faster, but safer. The water was nice, I had no problems with my bike and the road, and for the run, there's a bit of cloud, so it was not that hot," said Shinozaki, who was the lone finisher to cap the race under the three-hour mark, as runner-up Hiroyuki Nishiuchi of Japan and Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia timed in at 3:04:05 and 3:04:15, respectively.

Nishiuchi was first out of the water, completing the two-lap course at Kilili Beach at 22:15, a just a little over a minute ahead of Shinozaki. However, by the time Shinozaki passed through Kilili Beach from the Airport Road on his way to the northern portion of the course (up to Banzai Cliff), he was already ahead and went on to finish the bike leg in 1:28:34—the fastest in the field.

The Ironman veteran also had the best time in the run leg—which was from Kilili Beach to the bottom part of the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and back—after clocking in at 55:17. Shinozaki was the only triathlete to break the one-hour mark in the last leg of the race and was the division's runaway winner, as he even had several opportunities to pose for a photo at the finish line with the next finisher checking in more than 15 minutes later.

"I was really motivated to come back after the crash last year and win this great race," the 25-year-old said.

Meanwhile, six other pros joined the men's field with the Philippines' Fernando Jose Casares (3:06:34), South Korea's Kaon Cho (3:22:06) and Soo Hwan Chun (3:24:13), the Netherland's Van Der Flier Vasco (3:25:25), and South Korea's Jihyuk Yang (3:37:37) and Jin Gu Ha (3:42:24)

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Manami Iijma is first to head out of the water in the women's division of last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

MCS upsets KHS in finale

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School 1 stunned Kagman High School, 57-51, in the championship match in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

After a close battle in the first half, the second-seeded Knights overwhelmed the No. 1 Ayuyus in the second to hoist both the All-Island and CCOPSA varsity boys championship trophies.

The Knights clung to narrow leads at the end of the first two quarters, 13-12, and 24-20, before gaining more cushion in the third canto,

See MCS on Page 27

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School 1 players and coach Francis San Nicolas, standing right, pose with their championship trophies after beating Kagman High School, 57-51, in the CCOPSA caging finals.